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Table of exchange rates for various countries including Abu Dhabi, Albania, Andorra, etc.

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When vows of celibacy can't survive

Sex and the Catholic church

G2 with European weather

Inside Story

Alcohol and its dependents

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Education

Boffin island could be sinking

G2 pages 10/11

Cost of a degree - £20,000

Student loans

Table showing student loan amounts for 2000 and 2005, including maintenance and tuition fees.

Crisis plan by universities would scrap principle of free tuition

John Carvel Education Editor. STUDENTS would have to repay more than £20,000 towards the cost of their university degree under proposals to be agreed this week by the vice-chancellors...

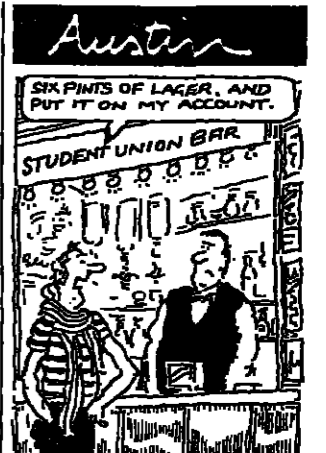
financial crisis, the universities have put together a plan to raise an extra £6 billion a year by transferring a large slice of the funding for higher education from the Government to graduates...

year throughout the period of study. Together these debts would leave the average graduate qualifying after a three-year degree course owing £20,625. Students doing four-year degrees and those going on to postgraduate courses would have to pay considerably more. The money would be repaid through a supplementary National Insurance levy at about 3 per cent of taxable income...

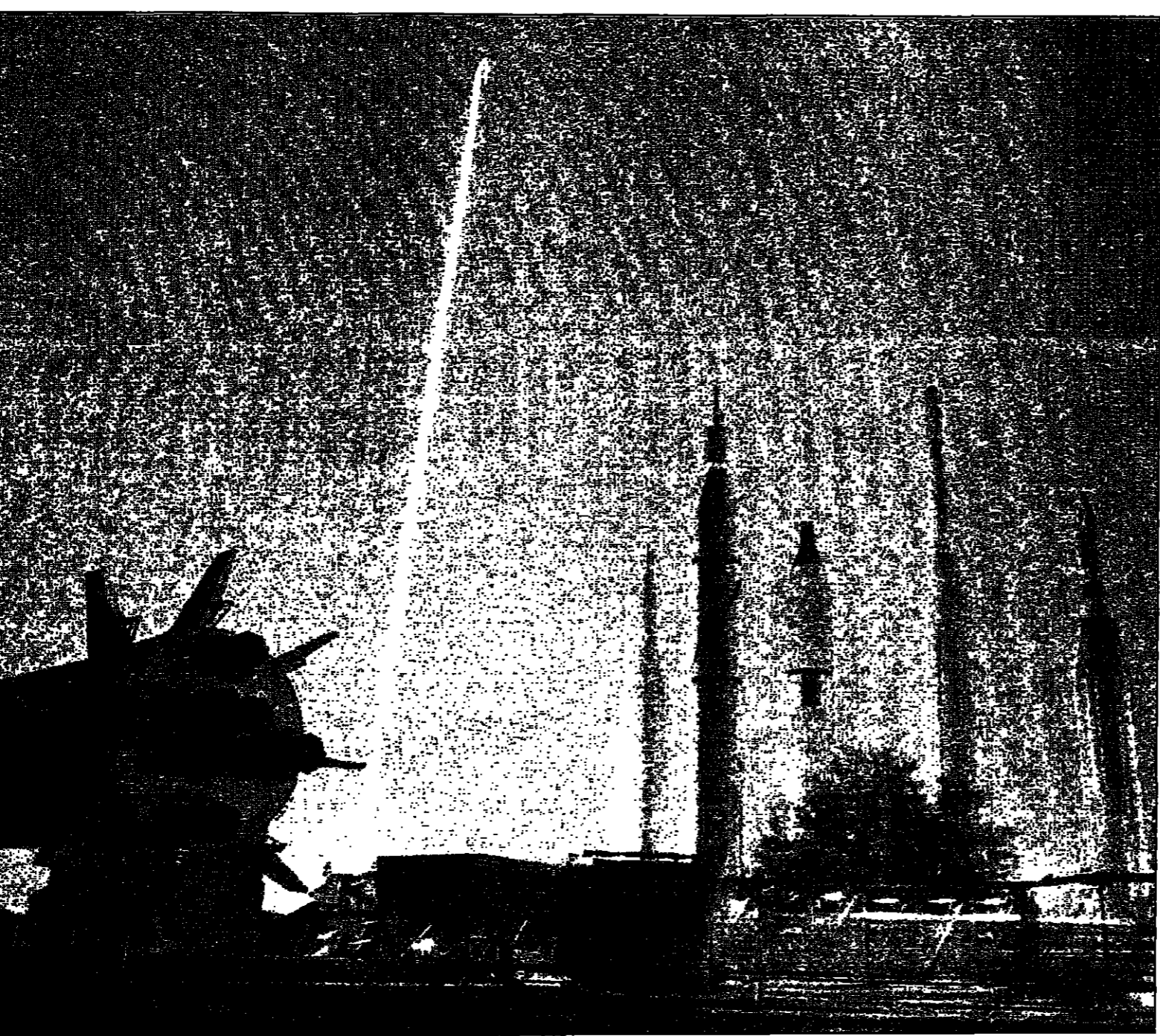
be agreed at the annual conference of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, which starts this evening in Sheffield. It takes the form of a recommendation to the Government inquiry into higher education under Sir Ron Dearing. Sir Ron is due to present a blueprint for universities in the 21st century shortly after the general election. Although the universities could not implement the scheme without legislation, the proposals to shift more of the cost of higher education to graduates would be a powerful temptation to the incoming government. The CVCP thinks the

changes are unlikely to come into force for four years. Tuition fees for full-time undergraduates would be introduced at £1,200 in the academic year 2000/1 and gradually increased to £2,400 by 2005/6. Labour and the Liberal Democrats have already called for reform of student maintenance to abolish the additional grant in favour of a more generous loan, available on a pro rata basis to part-time students and others who do not qualify for help under the present system. However, none of the political parties has yet accepted repayable tuition fees. Students would borrow "at

only a fraction above base rate", with banks advancing much of the money and receiving repayments from National Insurance via the Collections Agency. The Government's administration cost is estimated at £900 million a year by 2005/6. Douglas Trainer, president of the National Union of Students, said he understood the vice-chancellors' problems, but they should not pass the buck to students. "We are appalled at having to foot the whole bill for neglect by the Government."



Mission: to boldly go and bring back 'stranded' woman astronaut



Shuttle Atlantis sets off from Kennedy Space Centre to bring home Shannon Lucid, who has been six months at space station Mir. PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL KIZZLE

Bishop surfaces to quit his post

Peter Hetherington. ANGUISHED leaders of the Roman Catholic church in Scotland last night urged the runaway Bishop of Argyll and the Isles to show penitence and remain in the priesthood after a day of unprecedented drama involving his resignation and a priest's appointment five years ago to the Highland diocese, finally emerged late on Sunday to tell Cardinal Thomas Winning, head of the church in Scotland, that he was "physically and spiritually unable" to sustain his responsibilities. "It was a very emotional meeting because he was very upset and I didn't think he realised the kind of trauma he put everyone else in," said the cardinal. "He was very insistent on expressing his deep, deep sorrow and regret for the hurt he had caused by his sudden disappearance, and he insisted on resigning."

After a trip to calm troubled clergy in the northern diocese, at a special meeting near Loch Ness, Cardinal Winning told a news conference in Glasgow yesterday that there was no chance of the 56-year-old bishop remaining in his post. He had tendered his resignation to the Pope. Cardinal Winning spoke candidly and with some irritation about the bishop's long-standing relationship with Mrs Kathleen Macphee, a 40-year-old nurse from near Fort William who went missing about the same time as the bishop, leaving her youngest child with relatives. At the meeting in the cardinal's official residence in Glasgow late on Sunday, it was clear they went into some

details about the relationship, although the cardinal insisted that the question of sexual relations did not emerge. But it was clear the hierarchy felt that Bishop Wright had crossed the boundaries of clerical morality some time ago and had a clear choice to make: give up Mrs Macphee as a first step towards rehabilitation. Cardinal Winning regarded as more of a traditionalist than his English counterpart, Cardinal Hume, emphasised that Bishop Wright had no intention of giving up the Church. "In fact, I would still hope that he will continue sometime, somewhere his ministry as a priest - we both felt in his heart of hearts he probably would want to do that." Without compromising on points of principle, he said that at a time of personal crisis the Church had to show compassion to a man who apparently accepted, under great strain, that he might have been unsuitable for a senior role in the Church after a long period of self-examination. Asked bluntly if the bishop could continue as a priest if he had had a relationship with the woman, Cardinal Winning said: "Well, it depends what you mean by a relationship. You can go to confession, you know. There's a church of sinners... there's many a fallen person who is penitent enough..." Had there been a sexual relationship? "Well, I did not go into the sexual relationships. He has had a long-standing friendship with this lady but I did not ask him about details." Would the affair deeply damage the Church? "Well, scandals are part and parcel of the Church's history. I came to call not the just but sinners." The cardinal was insistent, however, that celibacy remained an essential, almost crucial, feature of the priesthood. "The fact that we have celibacy is to make us totally available to other people... the fact that lapses do occur turn to page 2, column 8

Tory fury at 'hostile' radio interview with Clarke

Mawhinney's complaint to BBC says Blair got kid glove treatment

Ewen MacAskill and Rebecca Smithers. THE Tories sparked a fresh confrontation with the BBC yesterday, after the Conservative Party chairman Brian Mawhinney complained about the "hostile" and "caustic" way the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, was interviewed on Radio 4's Today programme. Dr Mawhinney fired off a furious letter to the BBC director general, John Birt,

claiming that in a separate interview on the same programme, Labour leader Tony Blair had been treated "with kid gloves." During the interview by Anna Ford, Mr Clarke gave a propaganda boost to Mr Blair when he admitted Labour was not the threat it used to be. The Tories had earlier unveiled a new poster, the latest in their "New Labour, New Danger" campaign, which depicts a pair of glowing eyes looking down at the figure of £700, and a hand reaching out

to grab the money. The slogan reads: "This year the average family has £700 more spending money, after tax and inflation, than at the last election." Launching the poster, which will appear on sites throughout the UK, Dr Mawhinney said: "The good news is that this represents £700 more for the average British family to spend or save as they wish. This fact is supported by independent official statistics. The message is clear: Life is better under the Conservatives and will get better still." But Labour accused the Tories of "peddling lies". In his letter to Mr Birt, Dr

Mawhinney said: "This morning's edition of the Today programme displayed a blatant lack of balance between the ways in which Ken Clarke and Tony Blair were interviewed." He added: "Anna Ford repeatedly interrupted the Chancellor, who was not given the chance to develop his points. Her questions were openly hostile and her final remark at the end of the interview - 'So you are not going to elevate the debate' - was a disgraceful lapse from impartiality into blatant editorialising." He went on: "By contrast Jim Naughtie treated Mr Blair with kid gloves. Mr

Blair was barely interrupted at all. The exchange started and ended gently and was not conducted with the caustic manner that Ms Ford used in her interview with the Chancellor." He called on the BBC to take action to correct what he described as similar lapses by Today presenters and to remind them of their need to pay more than lip service to the guidelines regarding equal treatment between the parties. A Conservative Central Office spokesman said that unlike Labour it was rare for the party to complain but Mr Clarke had been "shell-shocked" by the "sneering"

tone of the interview. Labour dismissed the Conservative complaint as retaliation over its objection to what it saw as a recent News At Ten interview with John Major. Frank Dobson, the shadow environment secretary, said: "In time honoured fashion, Mr Mawhinney is embarking on the ritual pre-election BBC softening up exercise. His bullying tactics must not be allowed to prevail." A BBC spokesman said: "We have received the letter and it will be considered and replied to in the usual way."

Inside

Britain: A teenage boy spent 10 days in a hypnotic trance in hospital after playing a motor racing game in an amusement arcade.

World News: A judge in France is to call for four Libyans to be tried in absentia over the bombing in 1989 of a French airliner over the Sahara.

Finance: Britain's highest paid directors won't pay rises worth 12.1 per cent last year. They now earn £684,621 on average.

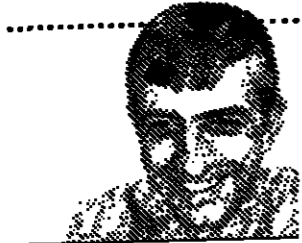
Sport: Arsenal at last confirmed Arsene Wenger would be their new manager. He will take over at Highbury later this month.

Comment and Letters 8, Obituaries 10, G2, Crossword 15, Weather 16, Radio 16, TV 16

Life insurance over the phone in less than ten minutes? That'll be the day. Two hundred years after the invention of life insurance, only one company can insure most people over the phone in less than ten minutes. As for the rest, well, they'll be along in... cr...in... Well, give them time. Virgin direct personal financial service 0345 95 95 95

Sketch

Raising ghosts of Christmas future



David Ward

There were bare midriffs yesterday on the A62, the main road from Manchester to Oldham. Normally, this is a pretty grim thoroughfare but yesterday it basked in the warm glow of a northern Indian summer.

Late afternoon drinkers sipped cooling pints of lager outside the Wheatsheaf in Fallsword and the declining sun blessed the limestone steeple of the Church of St John the Evangelist, 150 years old this year.

Review

Swept up in a tide of misfortune

Robert Dawson Scott

Men Should Weep Dundee Rep/Touring

With very few exceptions, there has been a curious reluctance to give second or third productions to modern British plays, however good they are.

man and a Guardian reader, handed over a bag of red lentils as a present, with the compliments of the season to come.

It's still only September and I haven't had my summer holidays yet. "Putting the lights up now spoils Christmas. I want a few weeks of excitement not all the year."

There were other signs, too. In the market, the Battery Shop had, as a discreet hint of dark nights and gaudiness to come, dusted off its packs of spare green, red, yellow and blue Christmas tree lights.

In the Spindles shopping centre, all was still autumn or earlier. Miss Attitude (of Manchester, Paris, Barcelona, Milan and Oldham) was having a summer sale of hair decorations and other fancies.

But Poundland turned its back on T-shirts and sun-glasses a month ago when it began offering 30 Christmas cards (snow scenes and the Nativity) for £1 or 40 de luxe Christmas cards (decorated tree) for the same price.

Eight-metre rolls of wrapping paper (roses, stars, holly) are on offer also for £1. In fact, everything in Poundland costs £1, including boxes of cheerful baubles, garlands in loud bronze, purple, blue and gold, and a six-piece Nativity set: 16.6 per figure, what a bargain!

Linda Dixon was tempted. "I like the price," she said, "but I don't need replacing. Mine are old and need replacing. I saw these here last week and thought that by the time I usually get round to thinking about Christmas they might all be gone."

She was last seen heading for the till with a pack of 12 and a pack of 24. They are doing Cinderella at the Oldham Coliseum theatre this year and seem to be quietly rejoicing in the council's early decorative planning.

"Bookings are already very good," said a spokeswoman. "And we are just about to announce our pantos for Christmas 1997."

Mr Tansley, a generous

Alliance to offer Yeltsin a partnership on European security in exchange for expanding eastwards

Nato opens arms to Russia

John Palmer in Brussels

NATO governments are to offer Russia an unprecedented partnership in jointly managing Europe's security, in return for a limited expansion by the alliance to include countries in central Europe, according to senior officials in Brussels.

The offer will be made to President Boris Yeltsin at a special Nato summit to which he will be invited next spring.

The summit will sanction sweeping changes in Nato's military structure designed to give its European Union members a leadership role.

A blueprint for a 21st-century European security system, being finalised by alliance governments, envisages

a "Nato and Russia Charter" organisation with its own secretary-general. Russia would have a privileged role in helping shape key political and security decisions in Europe.

There are also moves to create a political directorate — including Russia, the United States and the larger EU states within the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which has already been mandated to oversee Europe's post-cold war security.

Western leaders are increasingly confident that Russia will accept a limited Nato enlargement, on condition that no nuclear weapons or foreign troops are based in the new member states — something Nato is ready to do. They also believe offering other east European countries closer military co-operation but no Western nu-

clear security guarantee will further reassure Moscow. "We do not want to close the door on further enlargement for all time. But it is a long way off and we do not want to appear to be surrounding Russia in any way," the Nato source said.

The three-tier arrangement will also help ensure that a limited Nato expansion does not create fissures in eastern Europe itself. There had been fears that admitting Hungary without Romania or Slovakia — both of which have large Hungarian minorities — would exacerbate tensions.

However, by signing a treaty yesterday guaranteeing the rights of Hungarians in Romanian Transylvania — while guaranteeing Romania's borders — Hungary and Romania have defused worries about a new iron curtain

in central Europe. The agreement follows five years of negotiations over the status of the 1.6 million ethnic Hungarians.

Romania's president, Ion Iliescu, and prime minister, Nicolae Vacaroiu, and Hungary's prime minister, Gyula Horn, were greeted yesterday with military honours in Timisoara, Romania.

The new Nato strategy is designed to offer something for everybody, one alliance diplomat said. "Only a handful of countries will be admitted to Nato membership and come under our nuclear umbrella. Other candidate countries will be made more active partners with Nato without any security guarantee — while Russia will be given a special status in decision-making to reflect its size and importance."

The US and France are close to a final agreement under which France — and Spain — will rejoin Nato's integrated military command.

But the US will agree to Nato providing the Western European Union — the EU's defence arm — with the military means to mount its own security operations under European commanders. In future, Nato's deputy supreme military commander will also be a European.

The details of the joint security body to be set up with Russia, the reorganisation of Nato, and its partial expansion will be discussed by Nato foreign ministers in Brussels in December.

The Nato diplomat said: "The key issue will be the personal approval of President Yeltsin at the alliance summit next spring."



Bishop Wright... highly regarded in his diocese and still being described in glowing terms yesterday despite his disappearance

PROFILE: Bishop Wright

It was outspoken for a man not given to courting publicity, but few of his parishioners realised that it might also conceal an inner anguish.

When the Right Reverend Roderick Wright, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, was questioned about celibacy in the Catholic church during the scandal over the Irish bishop Eamon Casey fathering a child, he said: "I don't see any conflict in terms of faith if married men were ordained."

Four years later, Bishop Wright, aged 56, has delivered one of the most serious blows to the Catholic church in Britain in the last 50 years yet he has attracted none of the opprobrium that Bishop Casey of Galway generated.

Affable, honourable and charismatic: he was still being described in the most

glowing terms yesterday, as he resigned his responsibilities for the 11,400 Catholics in the diocese, and more than a week after he went missing at the same time as a 40-year-old divorcee, Kathleen Macphee disappeared her home.

"Bishop Wright is greatly loved and held in high esteem in his diocese and was a deeply committed pastoral priest," said Rennie McOwan, who is Scottish correspondent for the Tablet.

The bishop's support stems not only from the unassuming style but his close ties with the Highland roots of a community that stretches from the Butt of Lewis to the Mull of Kintyre.

He was born in Glasgow and brought up in Kinning Park, the son of a seaman from Eriskay. His mother was born in South Uist and Gaelic was spoken at home. He was one of four, including a much-loved sister who died of cancer this year. Many of his sup-

porters believe he has never recovered from the blow.

After school at St Gerard's, Glasgow, and St Mary's College, Blair, near Aberdeen, he went on to study philosophy and theology at St Peter's College, Cardross. He was ordained a priest in 1964.

As a young priest he was nicknamed Father Starsky because of his resemblance to actor Paul Michael Glaser, one of the stars of the seventies television detective series.

In January 1991, he was ordained as bishop in a bilingual service at St Columba's Church, Oban. It was just be-

fore his ordination that he came to know the Macphee family. He counselled Mrs Macphee, who has three children and lived at Inverlochty, Fort William, when she went through a divorce from her husband, Willie, a building contractor.

Rumours were slow to circulate about his disappearance due to the scattered nature of the diocese but when he failed to appear to preach at a national pilgrimage for a 17th century saint, John Ogilvie, at Carfin Grotto, Motherwell, the Sunday before last speculation became widespread.

The appointment of a new bishop could take up to a year. The resignation of Bishop Wright must first be accepted by the Pope. A shortlist is then drawn up among the 30 priests within the diocese of Argyll and nominations for the post accepted from outside.

Eventually, a detailed questionnaire is sent to 20 people who know the candidates well before a shortlist of three is sent to the Pope for the final decision.

Experts to decide World Service fate

Former Major adviser among team of five on 'balanced' panel

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

BARONESS Hogg, the former head of John Major's Downing Street policy unit, is one of five experts who could determine the fate of the BBC World Service.

Their selection as panel members was welcomed yesterday by observers, who described the line-up as balanced and impressive. The five all have strong links with broadcasting and two have worked for the World Service.

The panel will assess evidence from the BBC, the Foreign Office and World Service campaigners about the impact

of director general John Birt's BBC reorganisation. The working group will meet in private, although its verdict will be made public. It will report at the end of the month before a meeting between Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Sir Christopher Bland, BBC chairman.

The five are: Baroness Hogg, one of Mr Major's closest and most trusted aides as head of the political unit at Number 10 from 1990-95; she was a respected journalist for the Economist, Sunday Times, Times, Independent and TTN.

David Glenroese, former chief executive of the Independent Television Commission, who worked as a senior

producer for BBC External Services in the 1960s.

John Wilson, controller of BBC editorial policy until 1988. He laid into Mr Birt and the BBC management last year over Panorama's interview with Mr Major on the eve of the Scottish elections.

Stephen Claypole, managing director of the television news agency APTV, who was editor of External Services during an impressive career at the BBC.

Nicholas Colchester, formerly deputy editor of the Economist, and editorial director of the Economist Intelligence Unit since 1993.

John Tusa, a former managing director of the World Service who has strongly criticised Mr Birt's plans to merge English language production with the BBC's domestic programme-making department, welcomed the panel.

"It seems an impressive list, rather a balanced team," he said. "But the questions remain: what outside comments are they ready to take, and will the National Audit Office be involved?"

A spokesman for the Save the World Service Campaign said: "We believe it would be appropriate for all submissions to the working party to be made in public — it needs to be an open and transparent process."

The working group also includes BBC deputy director general Bob Phillips; Sam Younger, managing director of the World Service; Caroline Thompson, director of strategy; and Fritz Groothues, head of strategic development. The Foreign Office is represented by Christopher Battiscombe, director of public policy, and information officers Peter Dun and Paul Williams.

Scouts drop their 'ging gang goolie' image for buzz of a PR badge

Nick Varley

DIB, dib, dib is passé. Forget ging gang goolie. Scouts' new buzzwords are promotion, presentation and PR. Out go images of damp canvas and songs around a campfire, the Scout Association hopes. In comes a new badge for its 500,000 members: awarded for work in public relations.

The proficiency badge even

boasts a picture of PR's essential tool: the mobile phone.

John Fogg, the association's PR, but not a badge holder, said its introduction reflected the media-literacy of modern youth. But he also admitted an ulterior motive.

"The more young people I can persuade to tell all about scouting, the greater chance we can get rid of that image of short trousers and funny hats."

To qualify for the badge, youngsters first have to give presentation, obtain media coverage of a scouting event or expedition and assist in a promotional event.

Then they have to perm two from producing their own newsletter, creating a display for parents, arranging a visit to a local paper or broadcaster or conducting a survey on scouting's image.

A tip sheet designed to aid the preparation of press

SORRY IF YOU'RE UNDER AGE WE CAN'T SERVE YOU. OUR LOW COST HOME INSURANCE IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE OVER 50. This is why our premiums are so low. Call us today to find out how much you could be saving. LOW PREMIUMS, DISCOUNTS FOR SECURE HOMES, TROUBLE-FREE CLAIMS SERVICE, FREE 24 HOUR HOME HELPLINES. THE SAGA PRICE PROMISE. Find a lower quotation for comparable cover within two months of taking out your SAGA Home Insurance policy and we will refund the difference. Call free now for a no obligation quote 0800 414 525 ext GU9605. Free pen with your quotation. Lines are open 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm Saturday. SAGA Services Ltd

INSIDE BAGHDAD... Maggie O'Kane... Bom... we un... that -... they s... Clinton tr... strategy... short-ter... Analysis... Martin Walker... Clarke to announ...

مكتبة النور

INSIDE BAGHDAD



As President Clinton appears to be pulling back from further air strikes on Iraq, Maggie O'Kane finds people in Baghdad more concerned about the daily struggle to feed their families than about the threat of more assaults.



An Iraqi girl watches her mother brandish an AK-47 machine-gun at a rally in Baghdad in support of Saddam Hussein

PHOTOGRAPH: JASSIM MOHAMED

Bomb his palace - we understand that - but why are they starving us?

IN DISTRICT 838 - al-Dora, on the outskirts of Baghdad - there is a street of 10 pale blocks of flats where no one talks much about whether the Americans are coming to bomb Iraq again.

He is a gentle, grey-haired man who closed down his life on February 13 1991 when a 2,000lb bomb - of genuine US provenance - dropped through the roof of the Al-Mirya shelter in the capital. It killed his wife Hafsa, aged 42, and his four children: Saddam, then aged six; Lina, seven; Fuad, 12; and Zina, 14.

There were no bodies left. Now aged 61, he keeps his memories in an album on top of the dresser, with the two white bread bags he eats each day. He passes his time doing accountancy exercises and English grammar tests from old school books.

Across the road, in the shop in Building 159, Saad Abdul Karim, aged 48, says the old man speaks to no one and lives on buttermilk. Saad has five children and his own legacy from His Excellency, the President. He is one of the 2.5 million Iraqi soldiers sent to fight in the Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88.

sliced up by a red-hot spinning-top bomb in the Iraqi retreat along the Basra road. He survived only to go mad. His brother Mohammed took red-hot bomblets in his face, but the wounds have healed.

The room is bare, except for an electric fan. Chairs and tables were sold off at one of the Friday auctions in Baghdad, where wedding rings are on sale alongside panes of glass taken from streets like this one.

On the street corner, a man - who claims he is "not a member of the Ba'ath Party" - has things to explain about the purported US bombing.

He is in each house in the street with us, listening as people talk. In his own corner flat in Building 145, the bar in his lounge sports bottles of Glenfiddich whisky and Grand Marnier liquor. He can see into the hearts of the people on the street and they know it.

In Building 135, where Amar Khasan's face is bleached from a chemical bomb during his time in the Iran-Iraq war, the man who is not a member of the Ba'ath Party explains that His Excellency the President has never harmed us and will protect us.

Everyone in the room listens patiently and respectfully, including the woman who has come asking for someone to donate blood for her husband's kidney operations because the hospitals have none.

A teacher far from the street says: "The Americans will come and bomb again, it is just a matter of time. But it doesn't matter as long as they don't bomb the water or the electricity. Bomb his palace. We all understand that the Americans want to keep him in the kennel - but why are they starving us?"

Meanwhile, a grey-haired man sits alone with a photo album with flowers on the cover, and a psychology book which he says helps him understand the human soul and what is happening to him when he misses his children.

US pressure, page 7

Clinton trades strategy for short-term fix

Analysis Martin Walker in Washington

EVERYONE is claiming victory in the Iraqi crisis. Saddam Hussein has reasserted his authority over northern Iraq, and left the original Gulf war coalition in disarray. But President Bill Clinton says that in the oil-rich Gulf - where it matters to United States interests - President Saddam is more boxed in, and the Gulf allies more secure, than ever.

second aircraft carrier and Stealth warplanes, and alert its troops, suggests the Pentagon's strategy could work against a new Iraqi attack. To a US obsessed with pre-election opinion polls, that capability of enforcing its global military hegemony may be enough. But the longer-term politics and diplomacy of this not-quite war suggest US interests could face a huge defeat.

European allies are not cooperating with sanctions against Iraq, and Turkey is no longer prepared even to pay lip service to its supposedly sealed border with Iraq. Dual containment assumed the two most powerful states in the region would play their assigned roles, forever fighting like cats in a sack, and cause no alarm to their neighbours. But the neighbours are not comforted.

European allies are not cooperating with sanctions against Iraq, and Turkey is no longer prepared even to pay lip service to its supposedly sealed border with Iraq. Dual containment assumed the two most powerful states in the region would play their assigned roles, forever fighting like cats in a sack, and cause no alarm to their neighbours.



US troops set up barbed wire in Kuwait near the Iraqi border

PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENT REBOURS

Clarke to announce fourth freeze on public sector pay bill in bid to pave way to tax cuts

Michael White and Larry Elliott

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will today tighten the Government's pre-election squeeze on public spending when he announces the fourth successive freeze on the public sector pay bill, affecting five million workers.

to find room for modest pre-election tax cuts, teachers, health service workers and other groups will have to create higher wages and salaries through "efficiencies and other economies."

will cite the benign inflationary position as the reason for public borrowing will show that the state finances are improving less rapidly than the Chancellor envisaged. Mr Clarke's stance reflects the Treasury's desperate efforts to cut spending in the hope of being able to justify tax cuts in his November 26 Budget.

ty gains or offsetting jobs cuts are dismissed as "old speak" by Treasury officials who deny the existence of the kind of informal norm that survived into the early 90s. "It's going to be pretty tight," predicted one.

management techniques to boost jobs and growth had "made markets work better" across a range of policies, including privatisation and tax reforms.

"Ten years ago we had already won the battle to curb trade union power, the bugbear of the British economy. Now we can set an example to our European partners on labour market reform."

DEAR MR TAXMAN

THE INLAND REVENUE ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT SELF ASSESSMENT

TANTRIC TAX

Dear Taxman My boyfriend is adamant that Self Assessment is a new form of tantric meditation. Is he right? Confused, ISLINGTON.

TAXMAN SAYS There is nothing tantric about Self Assessment. It's a clearer, more straightforward system for working out and paying tax. From next April, when your first new-style Self Assessment tax return arrives (assuming you usually get a tax return), you will have fixed dates for filing it in, sending it back and making payments. If you want to find out more, call 0345 161514 for some free booklets.

RECORD ROWS

Dear Taxman Recently keep good records for other my business partner and I Government Departments such as Customs and Excise and the Department of Social Security. And if you need a bank loan you'll need records to show the state of your business. For more information, call 0345 161514 to get a copy of our leaflet on keeping records.

PAINFUL ARREARS

Dear Taxman While dusting behind the clock recently I came across some old tax papers that I haven't responded to. I haven't a clue what they mean. Should I just put them back and forget about them?

DIY QUERY

Dear Taxman Can you recommend a reliable yet inexpensive electronic calculator, as I believe I will now have to calculate my own tax? Undecided, EDINBURGH.

TAXMAN SAYS Save your money. We will still do the calculation for you if you complete and send back your new-style Self Assessment tax return (which you'll get in April, 1997) by 30 September, 1997. If you'd rather work out your tax yourself then you have until 31 January, 1998 to send in your return.

Fine on the spot?

Dear Taxman your bill for you, we must receive it by 30 September, 1997. If you would prefer to do the calculation yourself, the date is 31 January, 1998. If you miss that date you risk an automatic £100 penalty.

Please send me more information about Self Assessment. Please tick a box if you are: Self-employed [] Employed [] A Pensioner [] Seeking work []

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address

Postcode



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O RUSSIA

Flee Bisha quits post

SORRY WE CAN'T HELP YOU

OUR LOW COST HOME INSURANCE IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE OVER 50

SAGA Services Ltd

Bereaved relatives demand apology over gaffe

Star of Dunblane mix-up snags Major

Nick Varley

JOHN Major was last night at the centre of an embarrassing mix-up over a memorial to the victims of the Dunblane massacre.

A mother and daughter demanded he apologise for a government mistake which led to him being wrongly credited for the naming of a star in memory of the 17 dead.

Janice Coventry, aged 42, who is unemployed, and her wheelchair-bound daughter Toni, aged 22, paid \$55 from their benefits to name the Star of Dunblane.

Reports yesterday describing Mr Major's "caring" gesture said he paid the fee for the naming, intending it to be "a comfort to the people of Dunblane for years to come".

But the Coventrys, of Islington, north London, actually paid for it within days of Thomas Hamilton's murderous spree in March.

Mrs Coventry said: "I'm very angry. It was our thought and John Major's claiming he thought of it and the credit for it.

"It was a lot of money for us — money well spent — but we didn't want any glory. We thought it was a lovely way to remember the children and their teacher.

"When I heard about [Mr Major] saying he did it I thought it was a bit of a cheek. They should apologise."

Last night a spokeswoman for the Scottish Office, which examined the plan for the Prime Minister, admitted he did not pay for the naming.

"This was suggested by one of

Names put on stars

- The Queen
- Freddie Mercury
- Arnold Schwarzenegger
- Richard Branson
- Take That
- Marilyn Monroe
- Leonard Nimoy
- Raquel the barmaid (in Coronation Street)

his constituents and he and the Secretary of State felt it was a good idea.

"It was established that a star had already been named the Star of Dunblane by the International Star Registry following several inquiries from the public.

"Due to an unfortunate administrative error the reply from the Scottish Office to the Prime Minister's office did not make this clear and gave the impression that the action had been taken on the Prime Minister's behalf."

Downing Street sources maintained the naming was a good idea. But astronomers were dismayed.

The former president of the British Astronomical Association, John Mason, said: "The Prime Minister should have been advised not to have anything to do with this. It begins to look like we were warned that it has no astronomical significance."

Margaret Penston, a secretary of the Royal Astronomy Society, said: "If the Prime Minister's office or anyone

had checked with us or any of the organisations about using these schemes we would have told them 'just don't'.

"We often hear about them in tragic circumstances like this. You can understand people wanting to commemorate someone, but these are a waste of money."

Stars, officially named exceedingly rarely, are generally known by numbers. But the International Star Registry charges \$55 for a naming certificate, a chart pinpointing the star, and a constellation map. The firm, launched in America in 1979, has named more than 500,000 stars from a list containing 15 million. The same star is never named twice.

Janet Clayton, its UK marketing director, said: "The stars are there to be enjoyed by everyone in their own way. The International Astronomical Union, by policy, does not name stars. So why get overstepped about them? We have offered this fun, novel gift for years and given enjoyment to thousands?"

Downing Street could not say which, if any, official bodies had been consulted over the naming. A spokesman added he was sure the gesture would be seen in the broadest possible sense — as a mark of respect for the victims of Dunblane.

Ann Pearson, who organised the Snowdrop Petition calling for tougher gun laws, said Mr Major ought to take real action to help the bereaved. "What they are looking for is the Prime Minister to pass legislation to minimise the risk of a massacre happening again in Britain."

"The BBC is just not willing to pay ever escalating costs We just can't justify it. The previous argument that sport was relatively cheap for the amount of programming you get out of it is simply not true any more."

— BBC insider

BBC could axe big sports events

John Duncan Sport Correspondent

THE BBC is considering opting out of bidding for big sports events as a response to "hyper-inflation" of rights fees. According to senior BBC sources, that is one option among several on the table if the licence fee is not significantly increased next April.

"We are now asking questions about sports rights in an aggressive way," said a senior BBC insider. "The BBC is just not willing to pay ever escalating costs. We just can't justify it. The previous argument that sport was relatively cheap for the amount of programming you get out of it is simply not true any more."

A report has already been circulated outlining the BBC's cuts options and it identifies sport as a prime candidate for the chop.

The BBC television budget for sport is currently £100 million, but this has been an expensive summer of sport for the corporation, with the Olympics alone swallowing £30 million. That £100 million has to include production and staff costs as well as rights and increasingly the BBC is looking at spending its money on fewer events.

Critics say the BBC is simply not spending its budget sensibly. Recent reports have suggested Sky Sports manages to produce 14,000 hours of sport on a budget that until the latest Premier League deal was only marginally higher than the BBC's £100 million.

The licence fee, currently £89 a year, has been indexed in recent years, but that agreement runs out in 1997 and negotiations are under way over the next increase. The BBC is asking for a rise greater than the rate of inflation, possibly by 5% or 6%.

If these negotiations fail, sport, with the probable exception of Match of the Day, could be erased from BBC schedules when current contracts expire.

The BBC has already had problems holding on to sports rights. In a difficult past few months it has lost motor racing, the FA Cup, and live Five Nations rugby from Twickenham. It stampered the tide in a deal with Sky to hold on to highlight rights to Premiership football, thus securing the future of Match of the Day. But it had to treble the £4 million a year it paid for 1992.

Bowled over

Football

• Sky owns Premier and Football Leagues. From next season ITV gets live FA Cup action and the FA Cup final. BBC owns Premier League highlights rights for Match of the Day.

Cost to Sky £670 million over four years
Cost to ITV £50 million over four years
Cost to BBC £73 million over four years

Rugby League

• Sky own the Super League rights, though the BBC had live rights to the last World Cup. The BBC have Challenge Cup matches live until 1999.

Cost to Sky £87 million for five years
Cost to BBC £3.1 million for three years

Motor Racing

• ITV own Formula One, having snatched it from the BBC by offering a 300 per cent increase in rights fees for the sport to catch the Beeb who had broadcast it for the past 18 years.

Cost to ITV £12 million for three years
Cost to BBC £40 million over five years

Cricket

• The BBC still have an exclusive deal for all England home games signed way back in August 1994. That also gives them the NatWest Trophy and the odd Sunday League game. Sky own the one day internationals, and the Benson and Hedges (with BBC getting highlights of both).

Cost to Sky £35 million over four years
Cost to BBC £25 million over four years

Rugby Union

• Sky own live England home games and Ireland in France, as well as all English club rugby from 1996. The other home unions are currently asking for landing rates in excess of £37.5 million from Sky. ITV have European Cup rugby, though they are rumored to be wanting to get rid of it. They also have the next World Cup.

Cost to Sky £27.5 million over five years
Cost to BBC £40 million over five years

Snooker

• BBC own the four main tournaments, including world and UK championships, until 2000 but had to agree to put matches on earlier and allow advertising on shirts.

Cost to Sky £50 million over two years
Cost to BBC £12 million for three years

Tennis

• The BBC have Wimbledon, the only tournament — that interests English audiences, until 1999.

Cost to BBC £12 million for three years

Soccer World Cup

• Currently BBC and ITV share this as part of the European Broadcasting Union, and the fee has never been exorbitant. But the rights to the 2002 and 2006 World Cups now belong to a German broadcaster with links to Rupert Murdoch, which could spell problems.

Cost to BBC/ITV 1998: £1.8 million each
Estimated cost to BBC/ITV 2002: £10 million each

Olympics

• The EBU bought rights to the 1992 summer Olympics for only £50m; the 1996 Games cost £180m. The BBC gets value for money out of the Games though - 300 hours from Atlanta.

Cost to BBC 1996: £30 million
Estimated cost to BBC 2000: £50 million

Boxing

• Sky signed a two year deal with Frank Warren that gives them Naseem Hamed and Mike Tyson.

Cost to Sky £50 million over two years
Cost to BBC £12 million for three years

Tennis

• The BBC have Wimbledon, the only tournament — that interests English audiences, until 1999.

Cost to BBC £12 million for three years



Abuse suspect laid to rest

Alan Watkins

MORE than 400 people crowded into the parish church at Halesworth, Suffolk, to pay a final tribute to Christopher Barnett, the 37-year-old director and founder of the Wenboston choir who killed himself a fortnight ago after being charged by police with child abuse.

The vicar, the Rev Leonard Doolan, said that along with many other people his response to Mr Barnett's death and the charge he had faced had been complex. "I admit that at one time I had a feeling of betrayal," he said.

But it was right to recognize now that Mr Barnett was a flawed individual and not the perfect being many had wished him to be.

All his friends and those who had loved and admired him, now had to come to terms with their own feelings and their own responses to a very tragic situation, he said.

Although the Wenboston choir, now the subject of a police investigation, did not sing during the service, past and present members attended and added their voices to the music.

Suffolk police say they have received 24 calls on a special hotline set up to help parents after three allegations of indecency were made against Mr Barnett. Police declined to comment if any further incidents had emerged, but say an investigation is continuing with social services into Mr Barnett's activities with all 19 choirs with which he was associated.



Christopher Barnett: a flawed individual

Royal family plans public role for next six months

Christopher Elliott and Michael White

THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, their children and advisers spent yesterday at Balmoral thrashing out the shape of the royal family's public role over the next six months.

In the latest of a series of six-monthly meetings the small group of family and household members reviewed their long-term engagements to assess whether they were getting out to enough of the people in the right balance of north and south during their 3,000 visits a year.

It is understood that the widely forecast debate on constitutional issues did not take place.

Far-reaching options, heavily trailed within Whitehall, are being considered as part of a much longer process. These include:

- Ending the monarch's his-

toric role as head of the Church of England

- Allowing heirs to the throne to marry Catholics
- Streamlining the royal family to comprise only the monarch, consort, their children and those grandchildren who are direct heirs to the throne.

The talks yesterday appear to have turned on more day-to-day matters involving the face the family presents to the public. Since the marriage and tax controversies which have beset the family they are keen to ensure they "hit the right buttons" with the people.

Royal visits are planned to encompass a large number of different groups of people, for example the young, the old, southerners, northerners and minorities, as well as representatives of the mainstream.

The small committee headed by the Queen is known as the Way Ahead Group. It was the creation of

the Queen's "annus horribilis" in 1992, when everything seemed to go wrong for the family — the Waleses and the Yorks split and Windsor Castle caught fire.

They meet twice a year and have previously discussed the Queen's decision to pay tax and the opening of Buckingham Palace. Its members consist of the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and their children. Also there are the Queen's private secretary, Sir Robert Fellowes, and the Lord Chamberlain, the Earl of Airlie.

It is only in the past month that the palace has confirmed that it exists and what it does.

John Major and his wife spent the weekend at Balmoral. He was accompanied by his Principal Private Secretary Alex Allen.

Both Downing Street and the palace were playing down the level of discussions over the weekend, suggesting that no dramatic announcement of reforms is imminent.

Access to the Olympics, through the BBC's stake in the European Broadcasting Union, has also been secured until 2008. But already on the horizon is a likely increase in the cost of football's World Cup, with European rights bought for the first time by a private company that enjoys a good relationship with Rupert Murdoch. While Fifa claims it will veto unsatisfactory deals, the terrestrials are braced for a big rise.

"We are tied by the licence fee," a BBC TV Sport spokesman said. "We have had efficiency drives and have reallocated money to priority areas and it has been accepted that if we want to retain sports then we have to

be prepared to pay a competitive price. But we won't pay exorbitant fees. We showed that commitment when we pulled out of bidding for Cheltenham's Gold Cup. They wanted five times what we had previously paid for it and we weren't prepared to pay it.

"What Sky paid for the Five Nations is way beyond what we or ITV could pay and we wouldn't want to because it just isn't value for money."

The BBC is planning to draw a line around certain prestige "listed" events which, by law, cannot be exclusively available to pay TV. These which include Wimbledon, the Grand National, and home cricket Test matches, could be the limit of the

BBC's sports output in four years time.

"The rights holders think that the price can just keep going up and up," said the BBC insider, "but there comes a point when we can actually make other programmes for less money relatively, which was never previously true."

The first to learn that lesson could be the rugby authorities of Wales, Scotland and Ireland. They are currently putting their Five Nations games out to the highest bidder, but both BBC and ITV have hardly any cash to play with. That could leave them in the humiliating position of going back to BSkyB whose offer they rejected.

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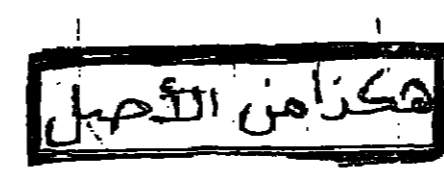
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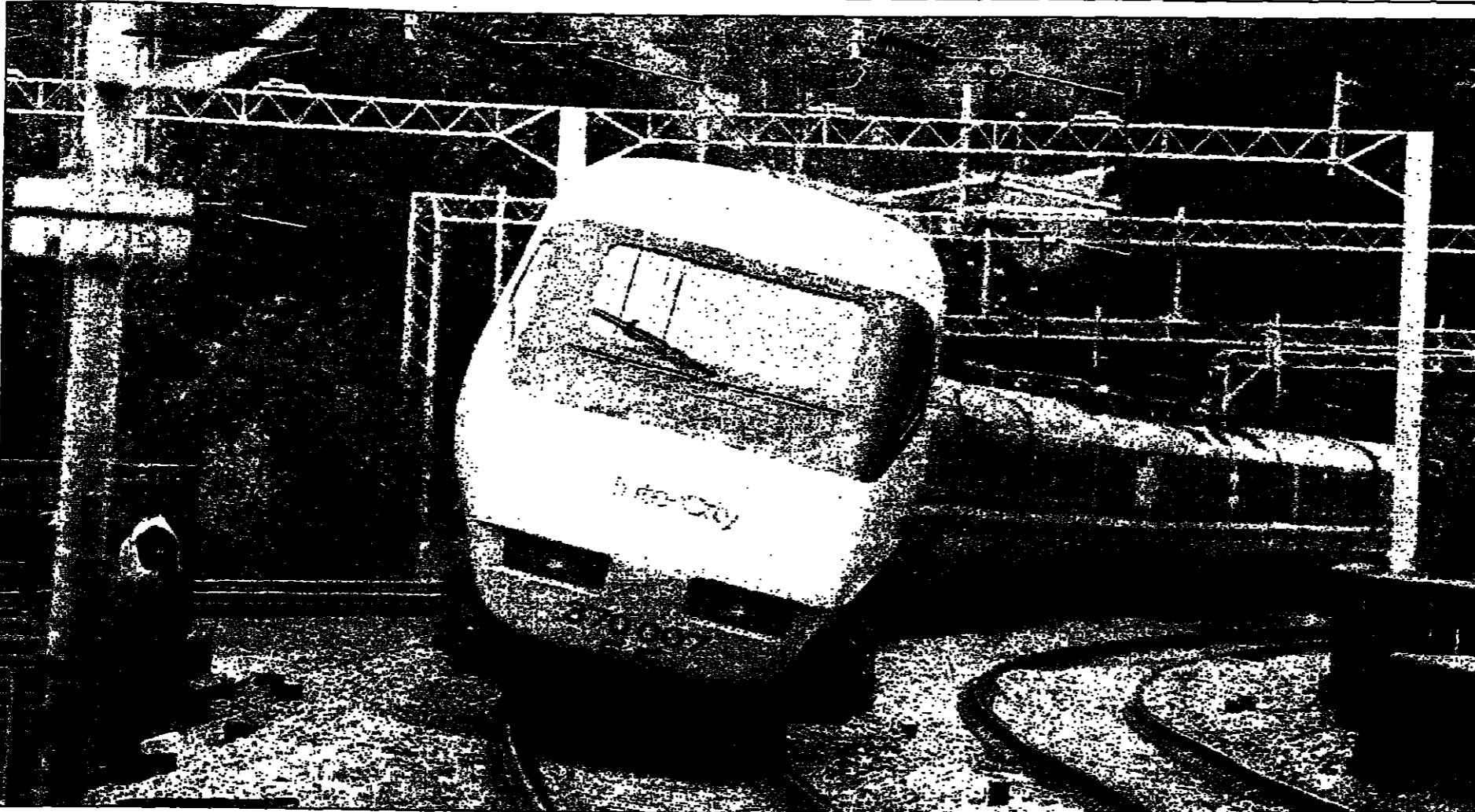
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The APT... jet-powered and capable of 160mph but, unfortunately, bits kept falling off and on its trial run it made the passengers violently sick

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

A famous white elephant is trundled out of the sidings and hailed as another great British idea too far ahead of its time

Martin Wainwright on 'tilting train'

BRITAIN'S notorious "tilting train", chiefly remembered as the one on which VIPs threw up on a 160mph trial run and abandoned as a huge waste of money, is to make its first passenger run after 15 years in discreet retirement.

The slender, bullet-shaped Advanced Passenger Train will open its hatch-like doors later this year in the railway siding at York where it has been left rusting in obscurity to save red faces at British Rail.

Although it became the butt of endless jokes after tilt mechanisms jammed and engineers discovered that one leaning train might hit another travelling in the opposite direction, the APT is now recognised as a rare example of ground-breaking technology.

Lessons learned from the prototype have been used in modern BR electric trains, and Sweden and Italy are putting the tilt concept into practice in new high-speed networks.

They lost 15 sets when they hit platforms," he said. "And they went for single-manning [a lone swivel-chair occupies the train cockpit] at a time when the unions insisted on doubling up."

As Hogg explains research Government is warned there is no chance of agreement on reduced cull EU stalemate over ban on British beef

Stephen Bates in Brussels

BRITAIN and the other European Union member states appeared to be resigned to a stalemate over BSE in Brussels last night, with no chance of any part of the ban on British beef exports being lifted this side of the general election.

Agriculture ministers will decide today whether to accept the British scientific argument and agree to a change in the terms of the agreement. Branshilling a copy of last month's Oxford university statistical survey which estimates that BSE will be eradicated within five years at present rates of progress even without a slaughter policy.

'Failing to honour the cull and the undertakings given at Florence would tell British farmers that there is no short-term prospect of the ban being lifted at all and that is not in the interests of British agriculture'

Ivan Yates, Irish agriculture minister the Ministers' Council, said: "The Florence agreement is the only workable solution and to depart from that would make a bad situation almost impossible."

British officials were privately equally pessimistic of the chances of an agreement, saying that the Government had concluded there was no prospect of an early lifting of the ban, whatever it did.

The latest figures show beef consumption across Europe is now up to 25 per cent below last March when the BSE crisis first broke and prices for beef cattle in the United Kingdom are currently only 63 per cent of their level six months ago.

Designer stages catwalk revolt

Susanmah Frankol Fashion Editor

YVES Saint Laurent has broken with years of tradition by announcing he will not stage a full-scale catwalk show of his *Rive Gauche* ready-to-wear collection in Paris next month. Instead, he will show to a very small selection of journalists and buyers at YSL headquarters — behind closed doors.



'It is time to get out. We don't need to be part of the present circus'

Pierre Bergé, chairman of the YSL Group and the designer's long-term friend and collaborator, said: "It is time to get out. We don't need to be part of the present circus."

The "circus" is the twice-yearly international ready-to-wear collections when journalists, photographers, models, buyers and hangers-on descend on Paris, Milan and New York to report on changes in designer fashion.

Second mental hospital 'suicide'

Geoffrey Gibbs

AN INVESTIGATION has started into the suspected suicide of a mental patient who absconded from the controversial Edith Morgan Centre psychiatric unit at Torbay hospital.

bag was found on the top storey of the building, has been named as Caroline Large. Healthcare executives have begun an internal inquiry into how she was able to abscond.

The woman, whose handbag was found on the top storey of the building, has been named as Caroline Large.

their lives wherever you are. But if someone is sectioned you expect them to be looked after in hospital until such a time as they are allowed out again.

School inspectors 'too soft'

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

HEAD teachers yesterday accused school inspectors of being soft on incompetent staff rather than face the hassle of confrontation.

15,000 incompetent teachers needed to be weeded out. Extremely bad or good marks can only be awarded after a second or third observation of the teacher.

one who needed disciplinary measures would be undermined if Ofsted inspectors gave a good or average mark. "Quite possibly one of the reasons we are seeing a lot of grade 5s is that inspectors are choosing to avoid the hassle, which is understandable."

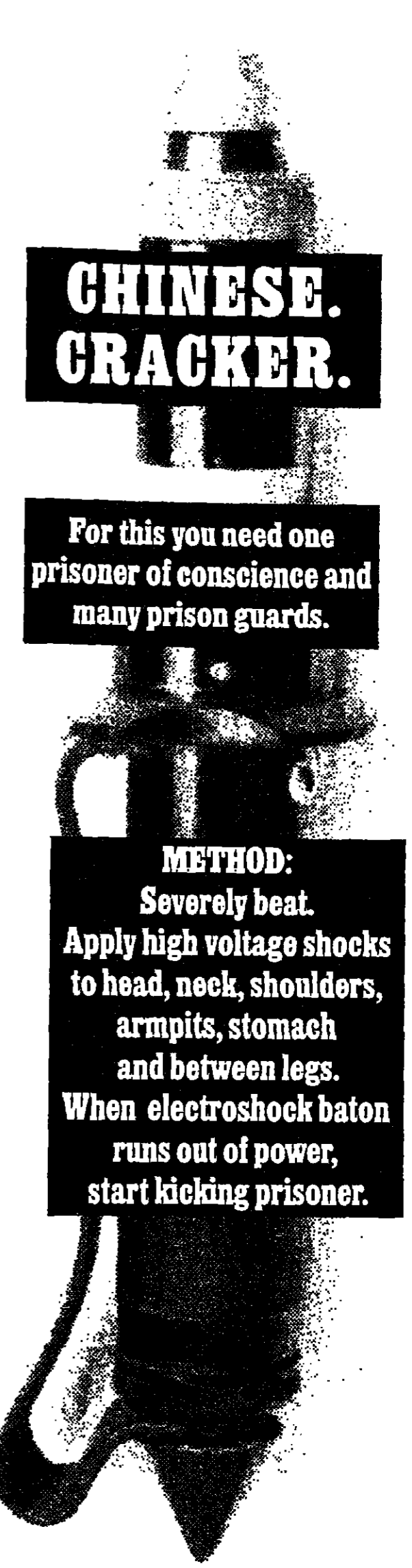
THE Government yesterday dismissed as "incredible" claims that about 250,000 young people in the UK aged 16-25 suffered homelessness last year.

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Figure for homeless 'incredible'

James Meikle

THE Government yesterday dismissed as "incredible" claims that about 250,000 young people in the UK aged 16-25 suffered homelessness last year.



CHINESE CRACKER.

For this you need one prisoner of conscience and many prison guards.

METHOD:
Severely beat. Apply high voltage shocks to head, neck, shoulders, armpits, stomach and between legs. When electroshock baton runs out of power, start kicking prisoner.

Tang Yuanjuan, a worker, was arrested in June 1989, for organising peaceful demonstrations. He was sentenced to twenty years in prison. In May 1991, Tang was severely beaten because he refused to acknowledge that he was a 'criminal'. He was taken to a 'correction' unit where prison guards inflicted the tortures listed above.

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France to try bomb suspect

Black in London and Alex Duval Smith in Paris

A SENIOR Libyan spy-master linked to the 1988 Lockerbie bombing is expected to be tried in absentia in France for the downing of a French airliner over the Sahara a year later, it emerged yesterday.

Relatives of those killed when Pan Am flight 103 exploded above the Scottish town said they hoped new details would emerge after news that a French judge, Jean-Louis Bruguière, is to call for Abdullah Senoussi and three other Libyans to be tried in absentia for the bomb attack which killed 170 people on a UTA DC-10 over Niger in 1989.

Lockerbie relatives hope for clues when judge hears case of African plane blast

Lockerbie and UTA as entirely separate issues. But how is it possible that a man like Senoussi did not know about the Lockerbie case? "The French couldn't have picked a more high and important person than Gadhafi's brother-in-law. They must be certain they can make a case against him."

men — and no prospect of anything else."

Mr Bruguière issued international arrest warrants for the four Libyans five years ago but Tripoli has refused to hand them over. The three others are Abdallah Elazhag, a former first secretary at the Libyan legation in the Congo, and two secret service officers, Musbah Arbas and Ibrahim Naeil.

claimed it was seized from opponents of Col Gadhafi.

It is not clear why the Libyan authorities co-operated so readily. Four years ago the judge was turned away when he tried to land in Libya. The bombing of the DC-10 happened during tension between France and Libya over Chad, where the countries' armies clashed in the 1970s and 80s.



A Deep Purple fan is arrested for fighting during a stadium concert attended by 30,000 Ukrainian enthusiasts in Kiev

PHOTOGRAPH: EPHEM LUKATSKY

Spanish Communists raise the republican banner

Other politicians are outraged by an unprecedented challenge at a party rally to King Juan Carlos's position as head of state. Adela Gooch in Madrid reports

THE leader of Spain's Communist Party has called for the monarchy to be abolished, raising the republican banner and breaking an embargo on discussion of the constitution since the death of Franco and introduction of democracy nearly 20 years ago.

Ever since Spain's democratic constitution was introduced in 1978, with a monarch as head of state, an all-party pact has existed not to question King Juan Carlos's position, despite the fact that he was Franco's choice to succeed him and that the rightful heir, his father Don Juan de Borbón, was alive then. Spain has been a republic

twice, from 1873 to 1874 and again from 1931 until the end of the civil war in 1936. One of the turning points in the transition to democracy came when the then leader of the Spanish Communists, Santiago Carrillo, was persuaded to accept the monarchy.

But although most Spaniards would openly admit they are not monarchists, the royal family is popular. King Juan Carlos is credited with playing a pivotal role in ensuring Spain became a democracy.

ground to question the monarchy. The press shows compulsive interest in the love life of Prince Felipe, but by British standards, media coverage is discreet.

Nuclear silos empty at last

Thierry Cayot in Apt

FRANCE ended a 25-year doomsday watch yesterday, shutting down 18 land-based nuclear missiles at a launch base under the Provence countryside and limiting its nuclear defence to weapons aboard submarines and bombers.

completely dismantled. Mr Chirac had already decided to dismantle short-range Hades nuclear missiles in a post-cold war restructuring. The S3D missiles had been in place since 1971, a symbol of the independence of France's nuclear strike force.

Early results signal Muslim crisis

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

PRELIMINARY results from Saturday's elections suggest that Bosnia's Muslim leader, President Alija Izetbegovic, is facing a close race for the job of post-war head of state with a leading Serb separatist, Momcilo Krajisnik.

The SDA has already prepared the ground for a boycott of the results by a polling day announcement that it considered the vote on Serb territory invalid because of alleged widespread irregularities. SDA non-cooperation would trigger a post-election crisis, setting back the internationally sponsored timetable for creating power-sharing institutions on the back of the poll.

helping to monitor the elections, called the conduct of the vote into question yesterday, accusing Serb authorities of herding Bosnian Serb refugees in Yugoslavia over the border to vote in Bosnia, on pain of losing their refugee status.

ing 400,000 were registered in the "Republika Srpska" (the 49 per cent of Bosnia under Serb control), and so — under the electoral rules — could only vote for a Serb.

Le Pen rebuked for exploiting papal visit

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

THE National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, yesterday intensified his efforts to exploit the divisions between moderates and conservatives already laid bare by controversy over the Pope's planned visit to France later this week.

logian, Jean-Paul Williams, said that to celebrate Clovis's baptism was to "endorse monarchic religions and the divine right of kings, which was celebrated until Charles X — crowned in Reims Cathedral in 1825".

Mr Le Pen's party, which roundly denounces critics of the Pope as "unpatriotic", has staged several anniversary events in honour of Clovis this year. His party has a strong following among anti-abortion activists and fundamentalist Catholics — advocates of the Latin mass.

Mr Le Pen supports the spirit of many pronouncements by the Pope, whereas many French Catholics — who make up 80 per cent of the population — are critical of Vatican teachings on condoms and abortion. After a weekend dominated by racist rhetoric from the National Front politicians of all parties condemned Mr Le Pen yesterday for calling on his supporters to prepare for revolution as "the worm-eaten structures of our system collapse".

Lebed battles for peace deal

David Hearst in Moscow

GENERAL Alexander Lebed, Russia's security chief, today launches a high-profile attempt to keep the fragile ceasefire he negotiated with Chechen rebels on track, amid signs of mounting domestic political opposition to the deal and increasing local military tension.

humiliated military have torn into the deal. The biggest obstacle is the composition of a commission to determine who will participate in a provisional government. A hostile meeting of Russian ministers on Saturday decided to claim half the seats for Russians, with the other half composed of Chechen groups, including the rebels and their bitter rivals, the pro-Moscow government of Doku Zavgayev. This would push the separatists under Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev into a minority.

The second of the Guardian Charter 88 Democracy Debates deals with the Labour Party's surprise decision to hold a referendum on a Parliament suspension on constitutional issues. Will discuss this idea with Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Jim Wallace MP, Conservative MP Phil Gatten and Scottish National Party Cabinet member Fiona Hyslop. Ticket prices £5/3 concessions. Credit card bookings tel: 0171 278 0188. For more information tel: 0171 533 1808. The Guardian Charter 88 Democracy Debate

Enemies China's

Lynch mob police at ba

مكازم الأصيل

The Guardian
Pen rebukes
exploiting
papal visit

Enemies close in on China's whizz-kid

Chairman Mou mixes profit and revolution. Andrew Higgins reports from Beijing

MOU QIZHONG turned tins of pork into planes, offered to buy the Chinese navy a \$2 billion aircraft carrier and travelled the world hawking the "greatest business opportunity in the history of mankind". He also proposed building the world's tallest skyscraper in Shanghai and naming it after Deng Xiaoping.

But the ambitions of China's most flamboyant tycoon have suddenly narrowed. A self-proclaimed "Confucian-capitalist" who looks like Mao Zedong, takes Great Helmsman-like dips in the Yangtze river and fancies himself as the visionary of a new Chinese revolution, Mr Mou is trying to avoid arrest. His passport has been confiscated, part of his pool of cars impounded and his credit lines cut by state banks which once eagerly encouraged his plans to put satellites in space, drill for oil in Texas and lure \$150 billion in foreign capital into China's state industries.

"I love business but I love theory even more. I especially love philosophy," he says. "This is very dangerous. China is a country where politics and economics cannot be separated. That is part of our history... But even if I sense danger I still do it."

His headquarters in a sprawling compound rented from the People's Liberation Army in western Beijing has the air of a beleaguered cult. Mr Mou's slogans, decorate the walls and his speeches fill the pages of a company newspaper which appears twice a month in English, Chinese and Russian.

Each of the 400 employees of his Land Economic Group carries a staff card with his motto: "The world has nothing that cannot be done, only things that cannot be imagined."

Visitors are presented with his Collected Works. These include essays with Mao-sounding titles such as On Smooth Tilling and Explorations of The One Degree Theory, trumpeted as the core of Mr Mou's dialectic-materialist outlook.

The People's Daily once listed "Chairman Mou" as one of China's 10 richest citizens. But, along with the rest of the official press, the organ of the Chinese Communist Party has now fallen silent about a man it used to praise.

Like many gurus, Mr Mou blames his problems on disloyal disciples. He says sacked employees have tried to take revenge by spreading false rumours about his finances and business practices. "Rumours," he says, "can kill."

Mr Mou's meteoric rise mirrors that of Shen Taifu, director of Great Wall Machinery and Technological Company. Hailed as scientific and

financial wizard, Mr Shen won plaudits and money from the state for a plan to develop a new energy-saving motor. He was later arrested, accused of fraud and, in April 1994, executed by firing squad.

Mr Mou's fate is likely to hinge on politics as much as the law. He has written to the party chief, Jiang Zemin, and the prime minister, Li Peng, appealing for help against a "conspiracy" by enemies of the government's free-market policies. Neither has replied.

Mr Mou shot to fame in 1992 when he traded 800 railway wagons stuffed full of tinned meat, down jackets, socks and other consumer goods for four Russian Tupolev-154 jets. The momentum of the deal helped him launch a communications satellite and set him on a dizzy trajectory of media hype and official applause. He became a "reform

hero" and one of China's "10 best entrepreneurs". The ease with which he once secured loans from state banks is often explained as a reward for political services during the 1988 Tiananmen Square student movement.

While most of Beijing rallied to the protesting students, Mr Mou echoed the government's denunciations of the Tiananmen "turmoil". He seems eager to play the Tiananmen card again, hoping that the party's dislike of the democracy movement may sway its leaders to his side. But he has no illusions about the perils of mixing politics and money. His appetite for grandiose gestures and statement has already landed him in jail twice.

He spent four years on death row in his home province of Sichuan as co-author of a political tract, *Whither China*, written at the end of the Cultural Revolution. Only the purge of radical Maoists after Mao's death in 1976 saved him from execution.

In 1983 he was back inside, this time for making too much profit on brass clocks which he had bought from a military factory in Chongqing and sold to shoppers in Shanghai.

Now apparently in trouble again, he has scaled back his wilder projects and no longer talks of buying the People's Liberation Army a moth-balled Soviet aircraft carrier. A vow to revitalise state industry through a multi-billion dollar fund has yielded only a modest investment in a Manchurian car parts plant.

He still proclaims a grand vision for anyone ready to listen. "The centre of the world is shifting to China. This is the biggest business opportunity in the history of mankind."

Staff, tired of waiting for him to deliver on a promise of "American pay and socialist benefits", are beginning to defect. Among those who have parted company with his Land Economic Group is an Englishwoman who worked as a personal assistant. "Land will not fall," insists Mr Mou. "It has merely encountered a few difficulties. The establishment of a market economy in China will run into many difficulties."



A statue of Queen Victoria at a Hong Kong park named after her is covered with red paint and the nose is smashed after being vandalised yesterday. The culprit, who was sent to hospital for observation, said he took the action for art's sake. PHOTOGRAPH: SAM SAN

News in brief

Grenade blasts mar Kashmir elections

SEPARATIST militants attacked polling stations, and protesters mounted a state-wide strike yesterday as India's troubled Jammu and Kashmir state held the second phase of local elections. Security officials reported at least five blasts, including two grenade attacks, in the separatist stronghold of Anantnag, 35 miles south of the state's summer capital, Srinagar. Three paramilitary troopers were wounded in one of the grenade attacks, residents said. The authorities reported normal to brisk polling in most of the 34 constituencies conducting polls in the second phase of the four-stage elections. The state is holding its first assembly elections since 1987. The last assembly was dissolved in 1990 after the outbreak of the separatist rebellion, in which more than 20,000 people have died. The polls are considered crucial to India's efforts to restore democratic rule. — *Reuter, Anantnag.*

Megawati left off poll roll

MEGAWATI SUKARNOPUTRI, ousted as leader of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) in June by a government-backed faction, was left out in the cold yesterday when the country's three legally-recognised parties submitted their candidates for next year's general elections. Megawati, daughter of Indonesia's late founding president, Suharto, and currently a member of parliament, was not on the list of PDI candidates submitted by her replacement, the deputy parliament Speaker Surjadi. He said four or five members of her faction were included from PDI branches in Bali, Jambi in central Sumatra and Maluku in eastern Indonesia. — *Reuter, Jakarta.*

Report exposes 'fetish slaves'

AUSTRALIA'S Anti-Slavery Society claimed yesterday that there were up to 35,000 religious slaves in west Africa, and that girls as young as eight were forced to perform sexual acts for holy men to appease traditional gods. A report, *The Forgotten Girl-Slaves of West Africa*, said the girls were the modern version of religious slaves formerly offered as human sacrifices. They are known locally as "fetish slaves". It said they existed mainly in Ghana, but also to a lesser extent in Togo, Benin and Nigeria. Girls were given voluntarily by their parents. — *Reuter, Sydney.*

Prostitute's diary subpoenaed

PROSECUTORS investigating the Whitewater property affair have subpoenaed the diaries of Sherry Rowlands, the prostitute who revealed her relationship with President Clinton's former political adviser, Dick Morris, the New York Post reported yesterday. The independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, is reported to be interested in Ms Rowlands' claim, denied by Mr Morris, that he told her Hillary Clinton was behind the White House's improper gathering of FBI files on top Republicans, the newspaper said. He may also be interested in Ms Rowlands' claims that Mr Morris divulged Whitewater damage-control strategies to her, such as his advice to Mr Clinton to distance himself from his wife in case she was indicted. — *AP, New York.*

Monaco royals to divorce

PRINCESS Stephanie of Monaco will go ahead with plans to divorce her husband, Daniel Ducruet, after 14 months of marriage, her Paris lawyer's office said yesterday. The break between the princess, aged 31, and Mr Ducruet, aged 32, came after Italian magazines published photos of Mr Ducruet romping with Miss Nude Belgium at a secluded villa. The princess was reported by France Info to have met her husband at the weekend to discuss possible reconciliation but no details of the meeting were available. — *AP, Paris.*

Mother Teresa suffers fall

MOTHER TERESA suffered a minor head injury in a fall yesterday, a Calcutta hospital said. A statement from Woodlands Nursing Home said she was in intensive care and doctors were awaiting the results of a brain scan. Her condition was not serious, the hospital said, "but her cardiac irregularity continues" — a reference to the irregular heart beat she has suffered since hospitalisation in late August for 18 days with heart problems, malaria and pneumonia. — *Reuter, Calcutta.*

Camila's 125-mile trek

AFTER a trek home of 125 miles, Camila the cat (pictured) is back in the arms of her owner, Nuno Filipe, aged 12. The seven-year-old cat strayed while the Felipe family was on holiday in northern Portugal. They hunted in vain for her for a week before giving up and returning home to Coimbra, central Portugal. Last week, Camila returned home too, under her own steam. The long march had taken its toll: her pink paw pads had turned a rugged black and her claws were worn down. — *AP.*



Germans plan SAS-style unit

THE head of Germany's land forces, Lieutenant-General Helmut Wilmanns, has unveiled plans for a 1,000-strong special combat unit along the lines of Britain's SAS. The KSK unit, geared to behind-the-lines operations and freeing hostages abroad, is part of a broad reform designed to give Germany a rapid response capability. Training will last three years and produce specialised units for parachute and water-borne landings and other operations. Germany will co-operate with the SAS and is sending its first batch of soldiers to train in Britain in the next few months. Overall, it aims to have about 37,000 troops available for all kinds of rapid deployment by the turn of the century. — *Reuter, Bonn.*

Solar conference lacks stars

INCREASED use of solar energy was urged at the opening yesterday of the Solar Summit, sponsored by the Zimbabwean government and the United Nations Education and Scientific Organisation, in Harare. "We must act seriously in adopting solar energy and engage our scientists to start this vast source of renewable energy," said President Robert Mugabe, who opened the summit. Enthusiasm was dimmed by the fact that only nine of the expected 23 heads of state attended. — *Andrew Meldrum, Harare.*

Correction: A photograph from Romania published in the Guardian yesterday was not Miron Cozma, as stated, but Corneliu Coposu. Apologies for the error.

bed battles peace deal

Violence in Mexico is increasing in spite of tougher laws, writes Phil Gunson

THE suspected thief, his face bruised and bloody, his hands tied behind his back, struggles to stay on his feet as enraged stallholders push him at a run through the narrow market alleys.

A crowd of 50 to 60 people gathers as the man, his head slumped, is tied to an iron post and his captors debate what to do with him. "We're going to pour petrol on him and burn him," says one, as municipal police in two squad cars watch nervously from a distance.

Half an hour later, as tempers cool, the local police commander tries to intervene, but meets with a stream of abuse. "Try to set him free and we'll do the same to you, you son-of-a-bitch," one man shouts as the police officer retreats.

On this occasion the victim, whom the stallholders accuse of regularly stealing their goods, is lucky. Negotiations between the leaders of the lynch mob and the police commander, backed by soldiers with assault rifles, lead to his release into police custody.

Rodolfo Soler, an alleged rapist and murderer, was less fortunate. A fortnight ago television viewers around the world saw video footage of his execution by the community of Tatanhucapan, in Veracruz state. A local human rights group said police arrived after the victim had been severely tortured, but left soon afterwards. The villagers tied him to a tree and set him alight. He took about ten minutes to die.

It was the most prominent of a series of lynchings which has claimed more than 20 lives in the past year and which human rights monitors say reflects the failure of police and courts to bring criminals to justice.

"The justice system is in bad shape all over the country," said Roger Maldonado of the human rights commission in Xalapa, the state capital. Statistics compiled by GEA, a research group in

Lynch mobs hold police at bay

Mexico City, show that violent conflicts of all kinds rose sharply this year. It found no evidence of lynchings between December 1994 and August last year, but in the year to August 27 they recorded 28 incidents and 21 deaths. There have been at least four more deaths since then, but many attempted lynchings go unreported. President Ernesto Zedillo came to office in 1994 committed to a thorough overhaul of the justice system, a task he admits is far from complete. "Society is right to be indignant at the lax application of the law," he said in his annual state-of-the-nation address a fortnight ago. "It is right to lack confidence in laws which, instead of punishing criminals, reinforce impunity and encourage recidivism."

But despite tougher laws and reforms of the police —

including the appointment of army officers to crime-fighting posts — public confidence remains at rock-bottom. In March a group of 65 prominent intellectuals wrote an open letter to the president in which they called for "strict measures" to deal with crime, but within a framework of respect for human rights. "A state which cannot provide security for its citizens is incapable of providing anything," they wrote. "What does it matter what it offers, if it cannot protect human life?"

Official figures show that crime in Mexico City is 15 per cent up on last year. But surveys show that most goes unreported. A poll last year by the Reforma newspaper found that 64 per cent of crime victims had not gone to the police, almost invariably because they thought it a waste of time. In both the incidents cited above, participants said the victims were habitual offenders with whom the police had failed to deal.

Apartheid assassin tries to trade 'dirty tricks' secrets for amnesty

Chris McGreal in Johannesburg

A FORMER South African police colonel, once described as apartheid's most effective assassin, accused senior police officers yesterday of ordering the murders, and claimed that leading politicians, including the former president P. W. Botha, must have known about at least some of them.

Colonel Eugene de Kock — convicted last month on 89 charges, including murder, gun-running and fraud, — began his revelations about the former regime's dirty tricks campaign in the hope that the sentences might be cut and his chances of an amnesty improved. He told the supreme court in Pretoria that he had suffered nightmares and ill health because of his work as the former commander of a police counter-insurgency unit near Pretoria and as a member of hit squad in Namibia.

But he appeared relaxed as he told his long history of covert activities dating back to the Rhodesian bush war. He has made it known that he plans to implicate about 10 police generals and at least two former cabinet ministers — Adrian Vlok and Hennis Kriel — in the hit squad operations. The police generals have testified they will testify soon before Bishop Desmond Tutu's truth commission on apartheid-era crimes.

De Kock, aged 47, accused Mr Botha of sanctioning a raid in 1985 into Lesotho in which about 10 African National Congress activists were killed. He said three police generals were involved in planning the raid. He also said three prisoners in Namibia were killed on the orders of a police general. He admitted he was responsible for the murder 15 years ago of Zwelland Ndanda, chief of the ANC military wing in Lesotho and brother

of the present chief of staff of the South African army. De Kock said Nyanda was unarmed and already wounded when he was shot. "I started shooting at him. He fell, but stood up and continued running — and we didn't miss when we shot him," he said.

He and colleagues involved in the operation were awarded medals. It was De Kock's second: his first was for blowing up the ANC's office in London. He said he had been turned into a ruthless killer while serving with Koevoet, the now defunct counter-insurgency unit of the South African police which combated guerrillas fighting for Namibia's independence. He said the unit had a policy of using silencers on its weapons.

"You use them for assassinations, for nothing else," he said. "I may sound clinical and unemotional when I testify about these operations, but it does not reflect my true feelings. "It's not something that you flaunt. You can't go around crying because then everyone behind you starts crying. You cannot allow the stress to show." De Kock said he left the unit because he feared its commander wanted to eliminate him. As a result, he told the court, he had suffered nightmares, stomach ulcers and panic attacks, during which he was unable to breathe. Among those in court to hear his admissions were the present minister responsible for the police, Sydney Mufamadi, and the deputy intelligence minister, Joe Nhlanhla, who were once the target of government hit squads. De Kock's chances of a complete amnesty are poor because there was evidence during the trial that although some of the murders were political, others were tied to fraud rackets and gun-running.

US presses for support on Iraq

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

AS PRESIDENT BILL Clinton insisted yesterday that he "sought no [new] confrontation" with Iraq, the US defence secretary, William Perry, consulted Michael Portillo and Charles Millon, his British and French counterparts, in London at the end of a Middle East tour during which Arab states and Turkey expressed opposition to further American air strikes. British officials insisted they stood four-square behind the US. "There don't need to be any words of caution," said one. "We agree with the Americans on both the military action and the political rationale of what's been happening." But the officials admitted they were relieved when Washington stopped threatening "disproportionate" responses to the loss of Kurdistan and made it clear that

Marlboro rolls its own image maker

Ian Katz in New York

AMERICA'S newest glossy magazine for men promises action and adventure in the great outdoors. Call it Marlboro Country Life. It is the latest promotional ruse devised by Philip Morris, the embattled US tobacco giant. Besieged by anti-smoking campaigners and facing new rules on advertising, tobacco companies are looking for new ways to pitch their products. Philip Morris will post the new magazine to 1.5 million households next month. Entitled *Unlimited: Action, Adventure, Good Times*, it will carry reports on rugged and masculine subjects such as rock climbing, pool halls, and classic road trips. Philip Morris says it will be aimed at "regular guys" aged between 21 and 29. At first it will be free; later readers will be invited to buy a subscription for cash or with promotional points from cigarette packets. One story it is safe to assume will not be featured in *Unlimited* is that of David Maclean, the actor and sometime Marlboro Man who died of lung cancer last year at the age of 73. His widow Lilo is suing Philip Morris for wrongful death, alleging that the company failed to warn her husband of the danger in the cigarettes he had smoked for the adverts. "The commercials were very carefully orchestrated," the lawsuit claims. "David Maclean was required to smoke up to five packs per take in order to get the ashes to fall a certain way, the smoke to rise a certain way and the hand to hold the cigarette in a certain way." Philip Morris is fighting the claim. It says it is not even sure the actor ever appeared in its adverts.

Democratic Legation
London, 17/9/96

Debt-driven education
We must devise schemes to help the poor

EVEN supporters of a graduate tax to finance higher education will blench at the illustrative figures produced by the vice chancellors for their annual conference which meets today. Within four years students could face annual charges — to cover maintenance and a contribution to tuition fees — of £5,675 rising to £6,875 by the year 2005. A typical student will be leaving university after three years with debts of £20,000 or more. How is higher education going to attract more students from poor backgrounds under such a scheme? Which government would dare impose such a punitive tax on predominantly middle income people? Isn't it time we went back-to-basics and financed higher education through the tax system?

achieved by squeezing vast numbers of extra students into existing facilities. It was the vice chancellors — who at one point threatened to introduce their own fees — who finally forced ministers to set up the Dearing inquiry into higher education finance which conveniently will not report until after the election. It will be up to Sir Ron Dearing to advise on how big a contribution students should make to maintenance and tuition costs. The vice chancellors have produced a coherent brief. They are right to point to the reasons why further expansion is still needed: morally because all those who can benefit should be given the opportunity, socially to reduce the likelihood of an unemployed underclass emerging, and economically to compete in the modern world. They are right to argue "the problems of undersupply of graduates will be far worse than those of any over-supply". It is clear the two main political parties will not support the tax rises required to fund the necessary expansion of higher education. Britain would only be joining a growing list of countries which now ask for a contribution to fees. Indeed, the vice chancellors' figures only represent a one-third contribution to the cost of tuition. Yet what is missing from the vice chancellors' brief is special provision to increase the proportion of students from poor homes. True, the introduction of a graduate tax in Australia in 1989 allowed 30 per cent more students from disadvantaged backgrounds to attend Australian universities. But cultural differences do need to be measured. The British working class is different from the Australian. Some years back the vice chancellors devised a full cost fees scheme with income-related scholarships for students from poor families. The scholarship part should be resurrected. Five figure graduate debts are no way to widen access.

Looking to history for a solution

The answer to priestly celibacy is simple: turn the clock back

THE BISHOP of Argyll's resignation will fuel the debate which is already rampant — though rarely public — within the Catholic Church over the celibacy of the priesthood. Pope John Paul II has said there is nothing to be discussed on the matter; any bishops who dare to hint that they differ, can find themselves summoned to Rome to have their knuckles rapped. What is astonishing is the gulf between the Pontiff and the vast body of the Church; most Catholics consider it is only a matter of time before celibacy for the priesthood becomes optional. The overriding imperative for this monumental change is that the Catholic Church is approaching a crisis shortage of priests. In Europe, the number of vocations has been declining for decades, and already, a third of parishes are without a resident priest. That proportion is expected to rise sharply because the age structure of the priesthood is heavily weighted towards the over-sixties. Those running seminaries and training colleges say that celibacy is a deterrent to men who might otherwise be interested in the priesthood. Advocates of a married priesthood can draw on history to justify this volte-face. In the early Christian church, priests could choose to be celibate or to marry, and some of the great theologian bishops of Constantinople were mar-

ried men with children. It was not until 1139 that Rome imposed celibacy as a requirement for the priesthood. By contrast, the Orthodox churches' priests have always been able to marry. It is not that the Catholic Church needs to move with the times — merely to revert to ancient traditions. There never has been and still isn't any theological underpinning to the celibacy requirement — Jesus Christ says nothing on the subject. Indeed it is possible to read the decision in the twelfth century as a pragmatic move to preserve church property from being dispersed through inheritance. For centuries, Catholic priests have struggled with celibacy — in many corners far from the hierarchy's sharp eyes, relationships with "housekeepers" have been widely tolerated. What a series of scandals in Ireland, and North America have done over the last decade, is to expose the seamy underside of this harsh rule — the frustrated sexuality erupting in child sex abuse, the hidden relationships with women and priests' denial of the illegitimate children they father, as well as the loneliness of priests who turn to alcoholism and smoking. About 1,000 priests have left the British priesthood to marry in recent decades; many are talented, deeply dedicated men whom the Church can ill afford to lose.

Po-faced revolution in Padonia
The best way to combat it is strong government in Rome

IS THE COMEDY over, or just beginning, in northern Italy aka Padania? The Po has long been known as Italy's longest river with the shortest name. Now it has been adopted by Umberto Bossi, in the original Greek version, as a symbol of northern unity and independence from Rome. In a world where secession is a serious post-cold-war phenomenon, anyone who claims it is however implausible a context can win at least 15 minute's attention. Mr Bossi has been unable to say where Padania begins or ends; strictly speaking it should include a chunk of Switzerland and stop at the Po instead of taking in the whole of Tuscany. Only 13 per cent of Mr Bossi's own party, the Northern League, actually supports his call for independence. Yet his journey downstream from the source of the river to Venice has attracted the sort of treatment last earned when Hannibal invaded the Po valley. It may prove too much of a good joke. The sight of green-shirted cadres applauding crazy rhetoric, and the display of absurd medievalist symbols, rings a disconcerting bell from past his-

tory. Never mind that there were more sightseers than partisans to welcome Mr Bossi, and that some confused the new Padanian flag — a red on white cross — with that of a famous Dutch football club (shouts of Ajax, Ajax). Or that there is no historical myth behind Padania to sustain it. Or that Mr Bossi's provisional government has been formed with no pretence of democracy and certainly no endorsement from the supposed populace of Padonia. There is a strong rational case against the separatist claim that the Italian north is a land to be taken by ransom by a Mafia-ridden south. Corruption has been revealed as knowing no geographical boundaries. Northern industry has thrived for years on cheap southern labour. Yet the most disturbing feature on Sunday was the inability of the Italian centre-left government to respond effectively. Only the neo-fascists found the forces for a counter-demonstration in Milan. Mr Bossi can only be answered effectively if Rome is seen to be promoting effective constitutional and regional reform. Otherwise "The birth of Padania" could still become tragi-comedy.



Letters to the Editor
A united front against Mr Blair

NOW that Tony Blair's party is breaking from the Labour movement and also disassociating itself from socialism as a term, the question arises of what label it should fight under (Labour summit to fight revolt threat, September 16). The "Labour Party" as a label on the ballot paper would still suggest an underlying link with the trade unions, likely to turn off the target C1/C2 voters who count. "New Labour" sounds better, but still carries unfortunate connotations. "Labour union undertones." "The New Party" sounds fresh and clean, but rather empty. "New Democrats" has much greater resonance, provided that Clinton wins and doesn't pursue his attack on welfare too vigorously before the British election arrives. Perhaps the best thing to do would be to pull together a concepts team to brainstorm on labels with the likeliest appeal to target voters, and then try the most promising out on some focus groups. Once the leadership has accepted the reasons for the unions, the constituency parties can be told what they

have to put on the ballot paper. William Wallace. (Liberal Democrat peer.) 49 St James's Drive, London SW17 7RN. THERE is certainly a need to revitalise Labour's links not only with the unions but a whole range of community organisations, as called for by the new Clause 4. However, this should not be used as a cloak for an attempt to revive the SDP by the back door, and implement anti-union legislation. Trevor Fisher. Honorary Secretary. Labour Reform. PO Box 5219, Birmingham B13 8DY. WHAT really amazes me is that the unions still want to bankroll a party that has little to offer the ordinary worker, let alone those who are also trade unionists. LES Stennett. 72 Woodplumpton Road, Woodplumpton. WITH every day that passes, the reasons to support Tony Blair become fewer. The last straw for

Arkan: the prosecution

THE fact that Arkan claims to be no war criminal (Letters, September 14) is, of course, entirely unsurprising. There are very few war criminals in history who have admitted their guilt. What is outrageous is that he can cite the fact that he has not been indicted by War Crimes Tribunal as "evidence" for his innocence. The reason for this is obvious: key players in the international community, first and foremost the British government, don't want to see him there, as he is a key ally of President Milosevic, the top war criminal, who has been made the centrepiece of the "solution" imposed on Bosnia at Dayton. He and other warlords were the tools that allowed Milosevic to create the impression, supported subsequently by the British government, that Bosnia was a chaotic civil war rather than the masterminded campaign of expansion and genocide to create "Greater Serbia". Having achieved the maximum territorial gain possible at the time, Milosevic offered himself as the "peacemaker", and his puppet Arkan adopts his politics accordingly. Arkan's letter could have been written for him by Milosevic's government. Dayton suits him well as it will prove unworkable and "Greater Serbia", he can be quite sure, will become a reality in the long run. No need at the moment for his "tigers" to kill more innocent civilians, but time to try and re-write history. The important point about Bosnia is that no wrongful act had been committed by the Bosnian government in seeking and neither was there a campaign by the Bosnian government to harm any ethnic group in any way. In short, there was no reason why the Serb minority should have been unable to pursue its political aims by peaceful means. Yet leading Serbian politicians decided to use aggression and genocide to create "Greater Serbia". This is why Messers Arkan, Milosevic, etc should appear in The Hague. I've heard that, at some point during the war, the Bosnian government thought about bringing a suit under the 1948 Genocide Convention against the UK for failing to prevent "Greater Serbia" committing acts of genocide. That would have been a case against a key player, not a puppet like Arkan. Christian Wislaskirchen. Stanger Road, London SE25.

Maybe not

FRONT-page articles (Noel walks out definitely, and maybe it's over for Oasis, September 13)? A leader comment? For heaven's sake. Five per cent of the population may have tried to get tickets to see Oasis at Knebworth, but that still leaves 95 per cent who didn't. Surely the 5 per cent in thrall to the Gallagher's can get their information from the music papers, which are, after all, better informed and often friends with the band. The present media storm surrounding Oasis seems no more legitimate than Bill Grundy's goading of the Sex Pistols. Oasis, especially Liam Gallagher, are being encouraged to be outrageous, and then condemned in shocked tones when they oblige. Being incredibly rude about them, with constant references to being yobs, or implying that Patsy Kensit is a grasping groupie, will only encourage "worse behaviour". Oasis have been acting this way for years; if this is the last time, maybe the press



have done their bit to destroy youth culture in this country. Philippa Booth. Music Editor, The Oxford Student, Hertford College, Oxford OX1 3BW. TRYING to find something sensible in the Guardian about Oasis is about as likely as Tony Blair joining the NUM. It's rare to see a newspaper so full to get to grips with a major cultural phenomenon. At the heart of it appears to be middle-class sniggering at the Gallagher brothers' antics, culminating in a frankly insulting editorial "apology" (Leader, September 14). Much

Let us pray

IT'S a shame Bel Littlejohn (My part in the virgin's bad hair day, September 13) can't check her facts. For a start, the Bad Hair Day? Campaign is not a solo by the Church of England — the Church Army, Baptist Union, Roman Catholic Church and Evangelical Alliance are all equal partners. And who needs £200,000? The campaign so far has cost just £500. I know — I'm one of the organisers. Everyone involved gives their time and expertise free because we believe in what we're doing. It's also cheap for parishes to use. What's more, we break even. Beat that, Bel and Frendz. Sue Primmer. Communications Officer, Diocese of Birmingham, 175 Harborne Park Road, Birmingham B17 0BH. THE Catholic Church is implacably opposed to divorce, yet her bishops who are romantically inclined always seem to be attached to divorcees. Strange... but true. Robert O'Sullivan. Glengarriff Road, Bantry, Co Cork. Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are preferred.

On death and diplomacy

YOUR article on the tragic deaths of Paul Miles and Joanne Stickleland in India in 1982 (Fighting a lost cause, September 11) contained a partisan attack on Foreign Office staff. The truth is that we did more than you describe. But whatever we did, and do every day in such cases, it is in the nature of tragedies that it can never be enough for the bereaved. The families of victims of violent deaths abroad expect the Foreign Office to bring perpetrators to justice, to ensure prompt and effective court proceedings and to deliver swift and clear-cut conclusions. None of this is within our power. Understandably, frustration and anger build up and are directed at an accessible Foreign Office rather than remote foreign authorities. Of course it is our responsibility to take all practical measures possible to meet the requirements of friends and families of those who die overseas. We know the importance of the convergence criteria of lower public deficits. Christa Randzio-Plath. Chairwoman, Monetary Sub-Committee of the European Parliament, 97 rue Belliard, 1047 Brussels.

Overlooked

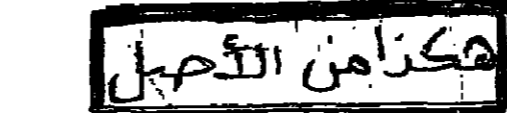
IN 1934, a previous surveyor to the Fabric of St Paul's, Godfrey Allen, foresaw that London's changing skyline could threaten the world-famous image of St Paul's Cathedral rising above the city. He devised a set of guidelines, the "St Paul's Heights", which limit the height of nearby development. More recently, protection has been given to long-distance views of the cathedral. Norman Foster's proposed Baltic Exchange building does not lie within the area protected by the St Paul's Heights, nor does it intrude any of the selective long-distance views. But it introduces to London a quantum leap in scale which raises questions about the value Londoners, and indeed the nation, place on the image projected by the skyline of the city. All who value the potent image of the dome of St Paul's rising above the rooftops of London should be aware of the full extent of the height from which the Baltic Exchange building will, if built, look down on Wren's masterpiece. It is 385.5 metres high; St Paul's is 111.5 metres. Martin Stanciliffe. Surveyor to the Fabric of St Paul's Cathedral, 29 Marygate, York YO3 7BH.

Unity talks

A "GRAND compromise" is not needed for monetary union (September 12); what counts is the Treaty. The European Parliament insists the Treaty be respected in order to protect the interests of the people. This year, the Monetary Institute, the Commission, the Parliament, economic and finance ministers and the EU Summit in Dublin will monitor how well member states are matching the convergence criteria. This exercise will prove that nobody wants to relax the criteria or to support lax fiscal policies. The more the EU co-operates to overcome unemployment, the more member states can fulfil the convergence criteria of lower public deficits. Christa Randzio-Plath. Chairwoman, Monetary Sub-Committee of the European Parliament, 97 rue Belliard, 1047 Brussels.

A Country Diary

NORTHERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA: The Kalahari Gemsbok National Park lies in a triangular corner of South Africa between Namibia and Botswana, covering an area of some 3,400 square miles, and there are another 7,000 square miles of protected land on the Botswana side of the border with no fences in between. Although not as well known or visited as such as many other African parks it has to be one of the greatest. Together the two sections provide one of the largest areas of protected wilderness in Africa. We could only spend two days in the park and, with the large herds had moved into Botswana to take advantage of the new source of water and food. Nevertheless, beast, eland, groups of wildebeest, eland, groups of wildebeest, along with the ever-present predators such as Cape fox and Silver-backed jackal, but we missed the famous Kalahari lions. In this harsh semi-desert country-side with an unpredictable rainfall of only eight inches a year, only the hardiest of plants can survive and we saw very few flowers. The ground cover is mainly woody shrubs, the drier shrub being the most common with its fine leaves and forked branches. Many animals in the park depend on plants as a source of moisture and as we drove along the dried-up river beds we occasionally came across the tamma, a creeper that produces a melon-like fruit, and several prickly cactuses which as well as fruits have succulent roots — all important sources of water in periods of drought. Bird life was surprisingly rich with the secretary bird a common sight strutting across the clay pans but the most obvious were the large colonies of social weavers and their huge, many-chambered nests woven into the branches of the camelthorn acacia trees. J M THOMPSON



Diary
Matthew Norman

I AM distressed to hear that my old friend Kim Howells, Labour MP for Pontypridd, is being dismissed by some as a "political chameleon" and "light-weight opportunist". Nothing could be further from the truth. When the trade spokesman argued in the Sunday Times for the humane phasing out of the word "socialism", this had nothing to do with wagons and jumping. The fact that Kim was once, when a NUM official, considered a militant trade unionist is neither here nor there. In 1983, after Arthur Scargill had visited a meeting of miners he had organised, Kim wrote to Mr Scargill praising his "excellent contribution", and ending the letter with the touching thought: "Remember that you always have our full support". Six years later, however, when friendly with Neil Kinnock, Mr Howells was in the thick of the discredited Mirror campaign against Mr Scargill over Libyan cash. As well, it's all ancient history now, of course. No doubt this time Mr Howells does mean what he says.

WHAT troubled times these are for Labour's junior employment spokesmen. First Stephen Byers... and now Ian McCartney is in trouble. The poor chap has the words "socialist member for Macclesfield" on his newspaper. Mr McCartney laughed at our offer to recycle his stationery (we can gloss over a witticism about "recycling old stories"), saying: "the problem is that it says I'm a socialist on my birth certificate". Bad boy.

MEANWHILE, from New York comes the news that Socialists International, which held a congress there last week, has elected as a new vice president a certain Mr Tony Blair. Luckily, this took place before Sunday, when Mr Blair wrote in the Observer that: "The TUC was created when some trade unions disapproved of the unions forming the Labour Party and wanted their own organisation". Intriguing though this analysis is, the TUC was in fact formed on Whit Tuesday 1868, some 32 years before the Labour Party came into being.

THE management of the Express titles by Clive Hollick (who we used to know as a "socialist peer") continues to impress. While he continues to withhold her pay-off from sacked Sunday Express editor Sue Douglas, the same paper has dropped Julie Burchill's column — and in strict accordance with good management practice, no one has yet bothered to tell Ms Burchill. The svelte pundit, whose last effort (on her sexuality) was spiked, had a contract worth a meagre £135,000 a year, and can expect a cheque for £70,000 (assuming that hers is a contract Lord Hollick intends to honour).

JOHN Redwood's career as Dixie pop correspondent is threatened again. Refusing to come to the phone yesterday to discuss his beloved Oasis ("a cricket match" was his excuse), all he did was send this message: "it is a great pity the British pop that Liam Gallagher does not want to spend more time with his family". It's not good enough... and so a substitute has been lined up. Step forward Sir John Junor, who in his Mail on Sunday column dismisses Liam as someone with "miniscule talent". It is not Sir John's way to base such a strong judgment on ignorance, and in this case it seems certain he would have studied the subject in depth before pronouncing. This is why we hope to tap into his expertise on Oasis later today.

THOSE not deterred from a winter break to Australia by the Bondi Beach murder might bear in mind the tale of Swedish backpacker Magnus Carlstedt, as told in the Fortean Times. Mr Carlstedt was removed from his Sydney hostel, the Jolly Swagman, by ambulance men, who then removed something from his ear with tweezers... a two inch long cockroach, which had crawled in during the night.



Time to declare a sound-bite-free zone

Commentary Hugo Young

THE ultimate riposte to sound-bite politics, which are the politics of swift, selective truth, was proposed to President Clinton last week. It is not an answer that John Major, whose autumn campaign includes high-minded complaints about the travesty of sound-bites, is likely to entertain. But who can deny that it reaches new levels of thoroughness, the antithesis of the bite, in the assistance it offers the electorate's judgment of a candidate for office?

The Republicans suddenly demanded that Clinton should release his complete health records. The reason for this was as grotesque as it was disingenuous. Not only must he yield the file of his lifelong medical check-ups, with appropriate itemising of diagnoses and prescriptions, but the body itself was required for inspection, in particular its most intimate parts. The ill-concealed speculation was that Clinton suffered from VD or worse, and was under a duty to prove otherwise. Blatant prurience,

with prostitutional overtones, masqueraded as solemn medical inquiry in the interest of the Union.

This remarkable piece of degradation had a straightforward political life of 28 hours, before the White House stunk to producing an 11-page exonerative report. Since most American devices, among them both sound-bites and spin doctors, have made an automatic journey eastwards, we may need to decide without delay whether this is an infection we want to catch. Probably not. But the test has its attractions. In an age of articles, it goes back to basics. Here is the corpus of the leader, stripped bare for all to see. No more concealments, no more pretence. This is where my candidature begins, says the plain and honest man, born of every decorative subterfuge that sound-bite politics contrives.

Mr Major's vision of the six months' electioneering ahead probably doesn't go that far. Complaining about the tone the task requires of him, he has found an ally to set beside his warm British beer of famous memory. The palmy days of politics, he told Scotland the other day, were when Gladstone was stomping through Midlothian in 1870. Oh, for the opportunity now to make a similar journey to educate the voters, presumably attending in their thousands (according to Roy Jenkins' biography, Gladstone drew 85,530 listeners in 15 days) in the iniquities of

devolution. Only sound-bite supremacy prevents it.

In his nostalgia, Major has a point. Sound-bites, as a prime medium of communication, have their limits. They come in two main varieties, each designed to tell everything but the total truth. One is calculated, much massaged, sedulously rehearsed, and appears either as the highlight moment of a speech or the crafted response to a pre-planned interview. The other is the sudden response to an instant development of which the politician knows almost nothing. Here what's needed is crisp immediacy. Both brands of bite, requirements of the electronic age, are distinguishable from the Gladstone method by the overriding priority they give to what is usually trivial and always simple.

But that's as far as I go with Major, or any other politician who says the media are all that stand between him and the plenitude of his message. Whereas the sound-bite is a necessity in the US, its importance in Britain is largely the contrivance of politicians and those they pay to help them. Television news can only cope with small sequences, but the notion that this is silencing the serious debates politicians want to have, or impeding the understanding voters think they need, is high among the clichés of political complaint which are, in truth, an alibi.

American politics can never escape the effect of instant impressions. In a vast

country, with 50 different sub-versions of politics, and an electorate often remote from state, never mind federal, government, two slick lines on Medicare are enough to make sense of an issue otherwise seen as impenetrably complex. A contest between rival slicknesses is, over large tracts of the US, the best most leaders can hope to promote. For both leaders and led, America appears ever more alarmingly a country on the brink of systemic meltdown.

Sound-bites, paid for or otherwise, have become the only language most people understand. By a grim but inescapable paradox, the larger the country, the bigger the issues, the more available the moment of the smaller the chance of a sophisticated democratic dialogue.

Britain has its own problems. It has many lousy newspapers ready to print lies. The parties can pay for their own propaganda, also usually mendacious. The need to make sure the right sound-bites are sent forth is no less great here than anywhere else. But we have honest television and an educated public. Vast though the funds are that parties will be dedicating to attempts at news management, I don't believe political understanding will be any less deep or pervasive in April 1997 than it was at the time when Gladstone was shouting to make himself heard from the back of a hay-cart at Inverkeithing. Rather, surely, the opposite.

The British condition

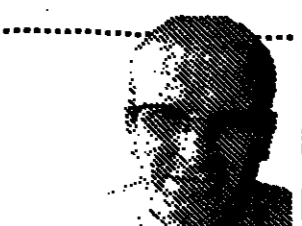
makes sound-bites a marginal contribution. Excess not scarcity is our problem. No sooner has a Labour front-bencher talked about the end of socialism (as if this, incredibly, was a new idea) than his utterance is pored over from every angle on every channel, and then given authoritative exegesis by the Labour leader himself. So it goes with every controversy that rises high among the narrow, repetitive and increasingly threadbare preoccupations of a country small enough to interpret them in a common language, and with a quantity of media outlets that substantially exceeds their capacity to throw new light on what they feel obliged to write about.

Speeches may be thinly reported, but articles proliferate. Mr Blair's essays are seldom out of daily print. Interviews, reaching millions, abound, and often at a length that gives the politician every opportunity to explain what he means. So available are the extended thoughts every leader wants the electorate to know, that any voter who cares to listen will have been perfectly barricaded against the coupe-by-sound-bites Mr Mawhinney or Mr Mandelson are even now cooking up.

Note, however, the caveat. In the coming six months, our readiness for the democratic moment won't be damaged, by and large, by the media, but by the politicians. Whatever they want clearly to say, at whatever unbidden length, will get through. If the 40-minute speeches fail to resonate as Gladstone's did, it will be because they are calculated not to do so.

If detail is missing from the great orations, it will not be because a sound-bite culture has imposed such trivialising blandness but because the politician, for any number of reasons, has decided there are things he chooses not to expose. Rather like Clinton and his body, rather, though with less claim on the political proprieties.

Today's new superstar is wearing a wig



Charles Leadbeater

THE THOUGHT that my son might want to become one fills me with dread. He will insist on wasting my afternoons by dragging me off to watch them perform. I will beg him to be sensible and aspire to follow in the footsteps of Noel Gallagher or Alan Shearer. But no, the lure of fame and fortune will be too much for him to resist. "Dad, you can't run my life for me," he will tell me. "George Carman is my hero. I'm leaving home to become a barrister."

Instead of reading the wholesome journals of my own youth, Goal and NME, he will take out an annual subscription to The Lawyer. By the time he grows up there will be a digital television channel devoted to the courtroom antics of lawyers. By that stage Carman, the very rich libel lawyer star of today, will be rather like Stanley Mathews, a poorly paid star of yesterday.

Lawyers, you see, are about to become millionaire celebrities. Not all lawyers, of course, just a select few. Ten barristers earn between £1m and £1.5m a year, according to a survey published this week by the Chambers & Partners Directory of the legal profession. The list does not include Mr Carman, so that means there are almost certainly 11 barristers earning more than £1m.

And that is not all. A survey by Legal Business magazine found that commercial solicitors in the City are enjoying a boom. Profits per partner at Slaughter & May, the top law firm, last year averaged £60,000. Even juniors, in their first year as partners, earned £280,000.

Fat cattery is spreading across the economy like a rash. Cedric Brown, for all his faults, was at least exposed to public outcry and removed. He is now enjoying a uniquely well-earned retirement, delivering lectures to amateur gas enthusiasts. But the rich pickings earned by lawyers have largely gone unnoticed, until now. This oversight is perverse. The inflated earnings of lawyers could have far more of an impact on us than excessive payments to a handful of executives at privatised utilities, because it could ratchet up the price we pay for the criminal justice system.

The sharp rise in lawyers' earnings is not temporary, nor is it entirely reducible to

greed. Different factors are at work among solicitors and barristers. With solicitors, it is almost as if the profession is dividing in two. The top multi-partner companies are now more like multi-national companies. As financial markets have become ever more complex and international, so has the legal work associated with them, witness the bewildering and highly lucrative nature of many modern fraud cases. These top flight City firms are almost in a position to break away from the Law Society and form a Super League, with its own rules for admission and pay.

Meanwhile many ordinary high-street solicitors are under the kosh, struggling to make ends meet. For Slaughter & May read Manchester United and for White & Smith, local specialists in conveyancing, read Hereford, clinging on to the bottom of Division Three. Twenty years ago they would have been recognisably part of the same profession. Now they exist in different worlds.

There have always been celebrity barristers, but now they are falling prey to the Angus Deayton syndrome: success breeds success, celebrity begets celebrity, good contacts lead to more good contacts. When a modicum of talent is married to a gift for self-promotion, a very small difference in performance can generate a large rise in earnings. That distinguishes the barrister from the entertainment business, now it also applies to the law.

Should we really worry about rich clients wasting their money on expensive, legal brand names? We do not get worked up about them spending their cash on Ferraris, Ferraris and Chans, so perhaps we should not worry about the prices charged by Messrs Pollock, Sumption and Beloff QC.

THE CASE for concern is twofold. The first is that the emergence of a millionaire elite will clearly set a new benchmark for middle-ranking barristers, who might do legal aid work, and encourage them to charge more. The second worry is the malign influence this will have on our children. The arrival of the millionaire barrister will encourage more ambitious people to go into the law. But the law is rather like the lottery: there are only a limited number of big cases each year and so only a limited number of opportunities to win the real riches.

This mismatch between supply and demand means there will be more disappointed people around, who will have wasted their time attempting to become superstar barristers when they could have done something just as rewarding in another walk of life. As Noel and Liam ponder their future, they may not have noticed this looming threat to the health of the nation's youth. It is just one more reason they should stay together.



Pension reform is now a key issue for Labour – yet Harriet Harman's plans just won't do. David Brindle gives her an (on the record) briefing on why she must do better

An acid test for Labour

YOU must be wishing you were still shadowing health. The social-security brief, as you have now discovered, is a bed of nettles. Pensions policy can be a political graveyard. Talk of pensions usually prompts glazed eyes and empty desks. It can be a desperate task to get the issue into the pages even of this newspaper, let alone the Daily Mail.

Not now. When Paul Flynn, your awkward-squad backbench colleague, last month hosted the launch of a deeply technical pamphlet on the failings of Labour's pensions policy, the press conference was packed.

Partly, yes, it was August party, too, media expectation of Flynn (again) bashing Blair. But there's something more in the air. Up and down the country, Labour traditionalists are latching on to the pensions issue as an acid test of what their party still stands for. They want Labour to show that on this one, highly symbolic, policy it remains decent, redistributive and, if I may say so, socialist.

For these people, and for many others, Labour's stance as set out in Security in Retirement just won't do. It talks vaguely of new, low-cost, second-tier pensions administered in partnership with the private sector. It proposes continuing the Tories' indexation of the state pension by prices, not earnings. It ditches the plan, proposed by John Smith's National Commission on Social Justice, for a minimum pension guarantee to lift all older people above the level of income-support benefit.

You have been trying to dress up Labour's latest idea as an alternative form of guarantee. But, in truth, it would be merely a way of making it easier and less stigmatising for pensioners to claim the income support to which they are anyway entitled. With the forces of righteousness gathering round the pensions flag, Custer-style, you will have to do better.

Here's how we can all be better off

Barbara Castle and Peter Townsend warn against policy-making on the hoof

IT IS WRONG to suggest, as Harriet Harman, Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security, recently did, that our proposals to link the basic pension to changes in earnings and restore Serps are "highly costly". On the contrary, the plans, outlined in our pamphlet *We Can Afford the Welfare State*, will actually save the taxpayer money. They are also less wasteful and less insecure than those Harman seems to prefer.

Our proposals do not deal just with existing pensioners' living standards, but show how millions of young people might obtain greater security for themselves when it is their turn to retire. This is the nub of the argument. Young and middle-aged people throughout the country have told us of their anxieties about how little money they can depend on when they leave work. Many see private pensions as an expensive lottery. And a predatory Tory government has undermined the two state schemes — the basic retirement pension and Serps — which it had believed it could depend upon. This unnecessarily increases the

number driven into means-tested benefits on grounds of poverty. The proposals we have put forward are less expensive to the taxpayer for two reasons. First, they are largely self-financing. National Insurance contributions are earnings-related so benefits linked to too. Working people are prepared to put aside enough for their old age. The institution is flexible and popular.

A Pay-As-You-Go scheme, like National Insurance, is not threatened by the slowly rising numbers in the pensioner population. The Government Actuary has supplied figures which show that the existing contributions could cover for many years to come the costs of both the increasing pensioner population and the basic pension, linked again to earnings. We know that this puzzle could be solved for many years to come the costs of both the increasing pensioner population and the basic pension, linked again to earnings. We know that this puzzle could be solved for many years to come the costs of both the increasing pensioner population and the basic pension, linked again to earnings.

democratic control over them. They have been increasing rapidly under the Tories. Harriet Harman seems to be following the Tory strategy of whitening away the basic pension and adding to means-tested schemes. She invokes the discredited Anson Committee's proposed additional "assured pension" and seems to think it will replace means-tested income support for pensioners. But the committee made clear their scheme is itself means-tested. The "assured" pension will therefore be, in Harriet Harman's own words (reported in the Guardian, September 14), "inefficient, expensive, and fails to reach those who need it most".

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Jane Baxter

Too nice to be great

JANE BAXTER, who has died aged 87, was nothing if not personable. You went to see her rather than any play; though the playwrights who furnished her the kind of light comedy in which she flourished...



Actress who charmed Churchill... Jane Baxter's grace 'personifies all that is best in British womanhood'

evocatively titled comedies followed such as Leave It To Femina, Mr Pains Heart and The Midshipman after which, they say, many a sailor had a photograph of Baxter pinned up on his locker.

failed to keep the part for the transfer, she went off to the Liverpool Playhouse for a stint of rep. As the extremely pleasant and flirtatious Frankie in Savory's unexpected hit, George and Margaret (Wyndham's 1937, and Piccadilly 1939) she could not of course go wrong...

Oscar Moore

A column of courage

OSCAR MOORE, who has died aged 36 from an AIDS-related illness, was a journalist and novelist.



Moore... unflinching

He exercised regularly in a gym and twice a week he swam 40 lengths. One friend recalls visiting him during a hospital stay and finding him doing press-ups while sitting on the edge of his bed. Moore forced himself to eat normally, despite a lack of appetite and the loss of his sense of smell and taste...

Birthdays

Prof Sir Donald Acheson, former government chief medical adviser, 70. Prof Sir James Aronson, veterinarian, 67. Anne Bancroft, actress, 65. Rt Rev Timothy Davin, Bishop of Portsmouth, 61. David Bintley, choreographer, 39. Prof Alec Broers, engineer, master, Churchill College, Cambridge, 58. Marshal of the RAF Lord Craig, 87. Don Crickshank, director-general, Ofcom, 54. Jennifer Dickson, artist and photographer, 60. Prof Sir John Hale, Renaissance scholar, 73. Angela Heytin, public relations director, 53. Sir Desmond Heap, authority on planning law, 59. Chaim Herzog, former president of Israel, 78. Damon Hill, racing driver, 36. Prof Park Honan, biographer, 68. Utsula Howells, actress, 74. Tessa Jowell, Labour MP, 49. Desmond Lynam, sports broadcaster, 54. Roddy McDowall, actor, 82. Brian Matthew, disc jockey, 68. Stirling Moss, racing driver, 67. Dinah Shore, actress, 76. Mary Stewart, historical novelist, 80.

Lynda Carr

Putting gender on the schools agenda

THE GIRLS who are today seizing their educational opportunities and excelling in all subjects, including those traditionally associated with boys, owe much to the work of Lynda Carr, who has died from breast cancer aged 50. As head of the education department with the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) between 1979 and 1989 she was responsible for much pioneering work.

education and equal opportunities. She was centrally involved in ensuring that equality was built into the development of the Technical and Vocational Initiative (TVI). EOC research this year concluded that this had been the most influential of all education reforms in promoting equality between girls and boys.

ment, chairing the Civic Association in Buxton where she lived for the past 17 years. She was also helping EOC colleagues devise new strategies for work in schools as education has moved back up the EOC's agenda.

Jackdaw



Loopy loo 1

AUTO: A device consisting of an aquarium pump and an oxygen mask used to smoke cannabis. Bake Break: To take a break and go smoke a pipe. Bongology: The ancient art of waterpipe construction. Bucketit: Command issued by smoker to inhale the bucket bong. Clam bake: To smoke in a car with the windows up. Broned: To be both drunk and stoned. Electric lettuce: Potent cannabis. Frazzled: To be under the influence of weed. Gropper: A massive bong hit.

followed by much coughing as your lungs grope for air. Indonesia: State of intoxication by marijuana. James Bond: The one person in a group who is the most stoned, or visibly stoned. EGB: Killer Green Bud. Lem: To smoke up and go directly to sleep. Muller: One who chops and mixes cannabis. Nature hike: A long walk with no particular destination when stoned. PABACAB: Pack A Bowl And Catch A Buzz. Roach Hotel: A collection of roaches to be recycled into new joints. Wake n' Bake: To smoke upon waking. Zoned: To be extremely stoned.

of the toilet. Make sure he knows where it is and uses it. Next put something under the litter box to raise it, say, about an inch. Get another box or phone book and raise it a little higher. Continue this process until the bottom of the litter box is level with the top of the toilet seat. You've been diligently keeping the lid up and the seat down, of course, so by now your cat is thoroughly familiar with tromping around on the open toilet. Lift the seat on your toilet and measure the inside diameter of the top of the bowl at its widest point. Venture forth and buy a metal mixing bowl of that diameter.

teach him proper squatting posture. Catch him beginning to use the toilet as much of the time as possible and show him where his feet are supposed to go. When he is regularly using the toilet with his front feet out begin lifting a hind foot out and placing it on the seat outside the front paws. Praise and/or treat. Repeat with the other hind foot, until your cat learns to balance in that squat. The last bit is also the most unpleasant. Begin reducing the litter in the bowl. Go as fast as he'll feel comfortable with, because as the litter decreases, the odour increases.

as you decreased the litter level. Once the water in the mixing bowl is a couple of inches deep and your cat is comfortable with the whole thing, you get to perform the last bit of magic. Take the mixing bowl away, leaving the cat liable to turn up en-masse at any hotel within striking range of 18 holes and ruin your weekend with their talk of birdies and bunkers. The fact is that golf is ruining the world. I mean, how many "sports" get to have worldwide day against their very existence? Snoring. AIDS. child-molesting, abuse of women, they all get their 24 hours of concern, but sport? Well, golf does, run by the Global Anti-Golf Movement, World No Golf Day, Round April or May. Even in Japan. Why? Because unlike any other game you can think of, golf massively despoils the environment, and ruins lives into the bargain. It is the most rapacious of leisure activities, demanding expensive land, water, herbicides and cheap labour.

Jehovah's Witnesses. At least we send skiers to the travel equivalent of concentration camps, where they are crammed 40 to a six-berth chalet, and exchanged for every service imaginable. No, we let golfers roam free, liable to turn up en-masse at any hotel within striking range of 18 holes and ruin your weekend with their talk of birdies and bunkers. The fact is that golf is ruining the world.



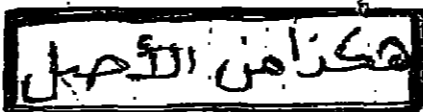
Arena... golf growl

Life on Mars DOES Mars have life? "Of course," says First Martian Scott Taggart, 33, the mayor of Mars, Pa. "for those that live here." But the town's 1,700 residents are not exactly over the moon about Nasa's startling announcement that some dots on a rock found in Antarctica may be microscopic fossils on a meteor from Mars - and the first ever signs of life beyond our planet.

Antarctica may be microscopic fossils on a meteor from Mars - and the first ever signs of life beyond our planet. "We have the original Martians," declares Larry Cooper, 44, a third-grade teacher at Mars Elementary School. Adds a wounded Mayor Taggart, "Nasa hasn't approached me, and I've been wanting to give them samples of our rocks to see what they could find." Being a Martian, of course, can bring misunderstandings. "When I call Europe to make a hotel reservation, I get hung up on a lot," says Jim Leasher, 44, the proprietor of Mars Travel. "I have a habit of saying, 'This is Jim from Mars... but I don't get the travel part out.' Mumbblings and grumbings from the original greenies in the town of Mars, Pennsylvania, reported in People.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk, fax 0171 713 4866, Jacksonville, The Guardian, 118 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield



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Finance Guardian

Opportunities created by single currency 'greater than the risks' even if UK opts out



Ready for Emu... Traders at the London International Financial Futures Exchange which yesterday sealed a merger with the London Commodity Exchange PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Eddie upbeat over EMU

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

THE City is poised to reap the rewards of European monetary union even if Britain opts out of a single currency, the Bank of England said yesterday.

Unveiling an upbeat Bank report on the progress made by financial institutions and markets towards January 1 1999, Governor Eddie George said London was fully geared-up to exploit a single currency.

"There are potential risks as well as opportunities for the City," he said. "But I have no doubt that so long as we are prepared — and we will be — the opportunities will be greater than the risks, whether we are in or out."

Even if Britain remains an outsider, he said investors would find the City attractive, given the level of financial expertise so long as EMU members did not penalise non-participants. "Our strengths are massive," he said. Citing the recent moves into London by Deutsche and Dresdner, he said: "Why do you think these people are coming here? They must assume the odds are EMU will go ahead and that we will be outside — but they are still coming."

Although Mr George warned that the broader economic backdrop to a single

currency was worsening — fuelled by high unemployment in many continental countries — he said there was a growing awareness that monetary union was inevitable.

He said financiers were recognising the strong political push towards the euro, driven by France and Germany, and were fearful the City would be caught on the hop.

Mr George sought to assuage worries about the UK's readiness, citing progress made in financial settlement systems, legal requirement and the development of the European Monetary Institute, the embryonic European central bank. A draft of the legal framework for a euro will be discussed at the informal meeting of European finance ministers in Dublin this weekend.

"We are increasingly confident the City will be ready," he said. He said the Bank had initiated a new working group on the future of government debt markets if EMU goes ahead, and is even discussing how the euro will be "rounded" to other currencies in large transactions.

Mr George said the Bank was giving a high profile to these "intensely technical" issues in order to inform the debate about EMU membership. "We need to ensure that the private sector is well up to the game in preparing for the euro," he said.

He added that, because London had more qualified financial, legal, technical and accountancy experts, it should take the lead in preparing the ground. But the Bank warned Britain's continental partners against imposing penalties on countries which remain outside the euro, which could damage the City's competitiveness.

Mr George said that putting restrictions on access to the European computerised real-time settlement system, Target, would be against the spirit of European co-operation.

In its second report on technical aspects of progress to EMU, the Bank said: "Any attempt to introduce differential terms for 'outs' compared with 'ins' would be discriminatory and likely to contravene both the single market legislation and competition law."

Although EU members have agreed that the "out" countries will have access to the Target system, there are concerns that they could distort the euro money supply by borrowing or lending heavily — and affect a Euro-wide monetary policy.

Some continental finance ministers have therefore called for a punitive rate on credit for outsiders. But the Bank insisted yesterday that any distortions would be "negligible" and did not justify punitive rates on credit.

In, out or shaken about, it's going to be 'yes' by 1999

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

POLITICIANS and the public may have widely differing views about the likelihood of Europe's single currency project ever going ahead, but the financial markets have no such doubts.

Germany and France have different levels of inflation, but long bond rates in both are identical. Dealers believe that the franc and the mark will soon be subsumed into the Euro, and that gut feeling is being priced into the markets.

The political message from Bonn and Paris is that the prime movers will go to virtually any lengths to ensure the single currency does not founder.



Geared up... Bank of England governor Eddie George

The monetary authorities in London have picked up the vibes. Yesterday's Bank of England document on the practical questions arising from EMU may have been for City transmitters only, but it reflected the growing belief in Threadneedle Street that the project will go ahead in 1999, or shortly thereafter.

Treasury officials, too, are working on the same assumption. A series of position papers — Britain in, Britain out, Britain sitting on the sidelines and mulling it over for a couple of years — are grinding through the Great George Street mill.

Senior officials remain unimpressed by arguments that the Bundesbank will scupper the project because the new European Central

Bank will not be "sound" enough on inflation. The Bundesbank thinks the ECB statutes are actually more hawkish on price stability than its own famously rigid terms of reference, British sources say.

It is true that the Germans are tub-thumping around Europe, saying that there will be no relaxation in the entry terms and that the stability pact for single-currency members will not be watered down.

Foreign minister Klaus Kinkel was at it again, yesterday, in advance of a meeting between German and French officials to discuss the preparations for a single currency. But he was really saying that EMU would only go ahead once all the teething problems had been attended to.

Notebook

Blair makes pitch to the doubters



Edited by Alex Brummer

WHEN leaders of the Opposition make speeches about the economy six months before an election campaign, it's as well to look for the underlying political messages. And, stripped of the usual homages to macro-economic stability and the recantation of Labour's tax-and-spend past, the message from Tony Blair's lecture to Liffe last night was simple: You'll be better off under Labour.

The strategy is sensible for two reasons. First, Labour needs to say something to counter the obvious evidence that the feelgood factor is on its way back.

All the signs are that the Government will have a good story to tell about the economy over the next six months — robust growth, falling unemployment, low inflation — and it is in Mr Blair's interests to plant seeds of doubt in the electorate's mind.

Second, Labour strategists believe that the main positive thrust of the party's economic programme over the first four years of this parliament — that investment is the key to long-term economic recovery — is too nebulous to have popular appeal.

The evidence of the past four elections is that Mr Blair's advisers are right. Four terms of Conservative rule have not been based on investment-led growth but on tax cuts and the promise of real income growth. Voters may not believe Labour when it says efficiency and higher productivity will lead to higher prosperity all round, but it may just be enough to make them willing to break the habit of the past 20 years and give the Opposition the benefit of the doubt.

the operation of the payments system Target. Some EU members believe that operations by the Bank in daylight hours, so called intraday transactions, would give the Bank a measure of say over their internal monetary policy. The Governor disagrees. The only time there could be a problem is at the end of the trading day when there might be spillover and this could be dealt with by penal interest rates, he argues.

His is an entirely acceptable argument. Except that, post-spring 1998, if the UK is still an "out" we will not be part of the European central banking system and therefore will be disenfranchised from the process. Indeed, the likelihood is that the monetary union will gradually cut the "outs" adrift which must work to the UK's disadvantage.

Open skies

IF British Airways' alliance with American Airlines is ever to be consummated then it will require a sea change in official thinking. Over the decades, the Government has been so protective of Heathrow's position as Europe's premier airport and the need to preserve the interests of the UK's flag carrier BA, in the face of marauding US airlines, that it has in effect ditched all the free and open market rhetoric which characterises every other aspect of commercial policy.

There is nothing particularly novel about the BA/AA deal, except sheer size and importance. Lufthansa and United Airlines have a similar arrangement as do Northwest and KLM. The July survey by the monthly Airline Business found that there are now no less than 389 links among over 170 carriers with BA's German rival Lufthansa leading the way. The German carrier partly has managed to forge ahead because of the open skies agreement reached between Washington and Bonn. Similar deals have sprung up across Europe.

Against this background the UK government is behaving in a precious way. Sure there are risks in opening up Heathrow to the US carriers, but no more than opening up the City of London to American investment banks.

In fact, US carriers, having been through the experience of deregulation in their domestic market, have plenty of lessons to teach in terms of computer reservation systems and the value of preferential and discount pricing. Deregulation in the US produced a relentless downward drive in prices to the consumer and there is no reason to suspect that because of sheer size, American/BA could not effect something similar on North Atlantic routes.

The price review and fixing procedures in Bermuda II, which governs Anglo-American air relations, are outdated. If a pricing problem develops it should not be beyond the capability of the CAA, OFT or the Department of Justice in the US to sort it out. That is what anti-trust law is there for.

Eddie's show

ANY suggestion that the Bank of England is somehow falling in its duty to provide leadership to the City during the change-over to the euro should be dispelled by Eddie George's autumn offensive. Mr George may have some reservations about the economics of monetary union but he is sensible enough to understand the political imperative and recognise there are opportunities for his financial constituency "in" or "out" of the system.

Just in case the next government should contemplate going in, the Governor believes that the UK's failure to rejoin the ERM offers no legal bar, despite Maastricht, because the pound's divergence from currencies inside the system has been within the prescribed limits.

Where Mr George starts to become slightly unsteady is on the more technical issue of

On the day a survey finds the £329.32 an hour directors... Top bosses take 12.6pc rise

Seumas Milne
Labour Editor

THE annual rise in top company directors' pay has accelerated this year to 12.6 per cent, taking the average total package to £684,671, according to research published today by the employment consultancy Income Data Services.

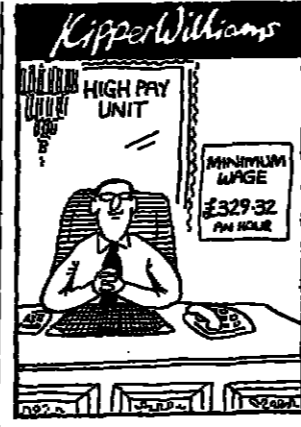
The increase last year was 9.1 per cent and in 1994 it was 22.2 per cent. IDS found after analysing annual reports of 96 of the top 100 companies quoted on the stock market.

In July the annual increase in earnings for the whole workforce was 3.8 per cent — the level it has been for the past six months.

The IDS analysis shows that basic salary plus benefits — the fixed element of directors' pay — rose by an average 7.1 per cent to £448,801, while annual bonus levels increased to an average £243,157, against £147,019 last year.

Eleven top directors were paid more than £1 million, while total directors' pay rose by more than 40 per cent at five companies and more than 20 per cent at a further 16. Only 10 directors saw the size of their total package shrink.

Both the highest increase and the largest cash package were paid to the top-earning director at BSKyB — Sam Chisholm, the chief executive — whose salary rose 608 per cent to £4,716,000, including a £2.7 million flotation bonus.



The increase was excluded from the average because of its distorting effect.

The IDS report notes that only 31 of the top 100 quoted companies followed the advice of the Greenbury committee on executive pay, to reduce employment contracts to one year.

The study found that in some respects the level of openness about directors' pay and company reports has been reduced since last year.

John Monks, the TUC general secretary, said: "Top bosses are giving themselves pay rises over four times the rate of inflation while their employees are having to settle for just 3.8 per cent."

"Fat cat greed should be curbed by involving employee representatives on the remuneration committees which set top directors' pay."

Magistrates say Olivetti chief is under suspicion

John Glover in Milan

FRANCESCO Caio, Olivetti's chief executive, has been formally placed under investigation by magistrates in Ivrea, Olivetti's home town, on suspicion of publishing false company information.

Citing judicial sources, the Italian news agency AGI reported that other members of the company's board were understood also to be the subjects of an investigation begun by magistrates last week.

The move follows a nine-hour interrogation on Saturday of Renzo Francesconi, the company's former general manager, by the Ivrea investigators.

Mr Francesconi resigned after alleging that the interim results Olivetti issued on September 3, which showed losses of 440 billion lire (£191 million), understated the company's real losses.

Yesterday Olivetti shares were suspended four times after breaching a rule that limits price variations to 10 per cent. The final price registered was 515 lire, a fall of just under 10 per cent on Friday's closing price (you can now buy three Olivetti shares for the price of a cup of espresso coffee).

The wave of selling began

in the morning, as investors reacted to news that the company had postponed meetings with domestic and London-based analysts and investors, originally set for yesterday and today.

"The company's failure to clear up its numbers is the real surprise and disappointment," said Alberto Rolla, an analyst at Pasfin, a Milan securities house.

The shares, which had already lost 5 per cent, plunged more than 10 per cent and were suspended when reports arrived that Mr Caio was under investigation.

"It's another heavy blow which makes the crisis of confidence in a company that's already hard-pressed more acute," said Piero Serra, one of the trade unionists who was meeting with Mr Caio yesterday morning when news of the investigation became public.

The unions are concerned about the risk of job losses as Mr Caio and his team struggle to get Olivetti back on track.

"The meeting went badly. Caio hasn't dispelled any of our doubts. All the worries we had at the beginning were reconfirmed," said one trade unionist after the meeting.

Analysts fear that the company is looking increasingly rudderless. "Caio has failed to impose himself," said one in Milan yesterday.

Mad cow crisis makes food group Dalgety less bullish

Roger Cowe

THE BSE "mad cow" crisis has made food group Dalgety less bullish about its prospects for 1996-97. The group's sales continue to be hurt by the ban on exports of beef products, as well as by farmers' economy measures.

Chief executive Richard Clothier said the BSE scare had hit most of his businesses. He said the effect was continuing in what would be a tough first six months of the current year, but he expected sales for the 12 months to be ahead of last year.

Sales from continuing businesses slipped last year from £4.6 billion to £4.2 billion.

Petfood exports were halved and are still below previous levels. Mr Clothier said products have been reformulated but there have been de-

lays in obtaining certificates which will allow exports to begin again. Certificates for Italy are still delayed. "It's been a very long process," Mr Clothier said.

Dalgety's food ingredients division was hit as continental buyers stopped purchasing seasoning and flavourings including beef products. Sales are recovering as consumers substitute products such as chicken dishes for burgers and sausages.

In the agrishusiness division, sales were hit as farmers economised by cutting purchases of cattle feed. Sales were down by a fifth.

Pre-tax profit fell from £94 million to £90 million as other troubles added to the company's BSE woes.

Petfood products in Holland were contaminated, requiring the temporary closure of a factory costing a further £5 million.

Labour finds an alternative to the TUC's £4.26 minimum Low-pay body to be permanent

Richard Thomas

LABOUR's proposed Low Pay Commission will be a permanent "vehicle for social partnership" under a Blair government, shadow employment minister Ian McCartney promised yesterday.

Outlining for the first time the key tasks of the commission — which will include employers, trade union representatives and

academics — Mr McCartney said setting the level of the national minimum wage would be only the first job for the new body.

He told an Industrial Relations Services conference of training managers in London that a central long-term aim would be to "foster and promote social partnership".

Despite the row last week at the TUC over the level of the minimum wage, Mr McCartney insisted that

union leaders and leading employers were backing the commission. Last week, the Confederation of British Industry agreed to be represented on the commission in the event of a Labour election victory.

Mr McCartney told the Guardian: "For us to succeed, we need a body which will be seen by both sides of industry as an aid."

At the IRS meeting, he stressed that firms should actively participate in the

setting of the minimum wage, other minimum standards, health and safety regulation and the boosting of competitiveness.

"Nothing will be imposed on industry," he said. "The Labour government will involve employers in establishing the minimum wage. We will reach a negotiated settlement that will be underpinned by legal protection for those employees and employers who are covered."

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.9025	France 7.75	Italy 2.328	Singapore 2.14
Austria 16.04	Germany 2.28	Malta 0.544	South Africa 6.78
Belgium 46.87	Greece 366.00	Netherlands 2.256	Spain 192.35
Canada 2.078	Hong Kong 11.71	New Zealand 2.172	Sweden 10.20
Cyprus 0.701	India 55.45	Norway 6.822	Switzerland 1.85
Denmark 8.8265	Ireland 0.9585	Portugal 234.00	Turkey 133.571
Finland 7.08	Israel 4.92	Saudi Arabia 5.80	USA 1.519

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)

Crandall threatens to 'deal with somebody else' as airlines reach impasse • EU fears abuse of market position

'Open skies' darken over BA merger



Now or never... American Airlines' Robert Crandall

Keith Harper
Transport Editor
THE chairman of American Airlines, Robert Crandall, threatened to pull out of the proposed alliance with British Airways yesterday if talks between the US and Britain on a new "open skies" agreement between the two countries went on for much longer.

Mr Crandall, who arrived in Britain for a series of top-level meetings with BA and ministers, told the Guardian that the talks would have to be finalised before the end of the year. He warned the Government that if they fail, American Airlines "will do a deal with somebody else".

The problem for AA is that there is no obvious alternative candidate. Of the large carriers, AA appears to have rejected Air France because of its financial position while others, such as Lufthansa and KLM, have already signed up with other American airlines.

Mr Crandall made it clear that an open-skies agreement was essential before the BA alliance — which would give the airlines a dominant position on the lucrative North Atlantic routes — could go ahead.

Kinnock issues air fares warning

Juffie Wolf in Brussels

NEIL Kinnock, the European Union's transport commissioner, is considering ordering an investigation into whether air fares on some European routes remain excessively high despite airline liberalisation.

analysis shows that fully flexible fares are significantly higher than can be justified by costs. "Because of that, I have to consider the possibility of the Commission examining these fares under the excessive pricing provisions [of EU liberalisation laws]."

liberalisation, which is due to be completed next April, produces greater competition and benefits for consumers. Mr Kinnock said that, although there were more low fares to be found in Europe, travel restrictions and discounting caused confusion and difficulties.

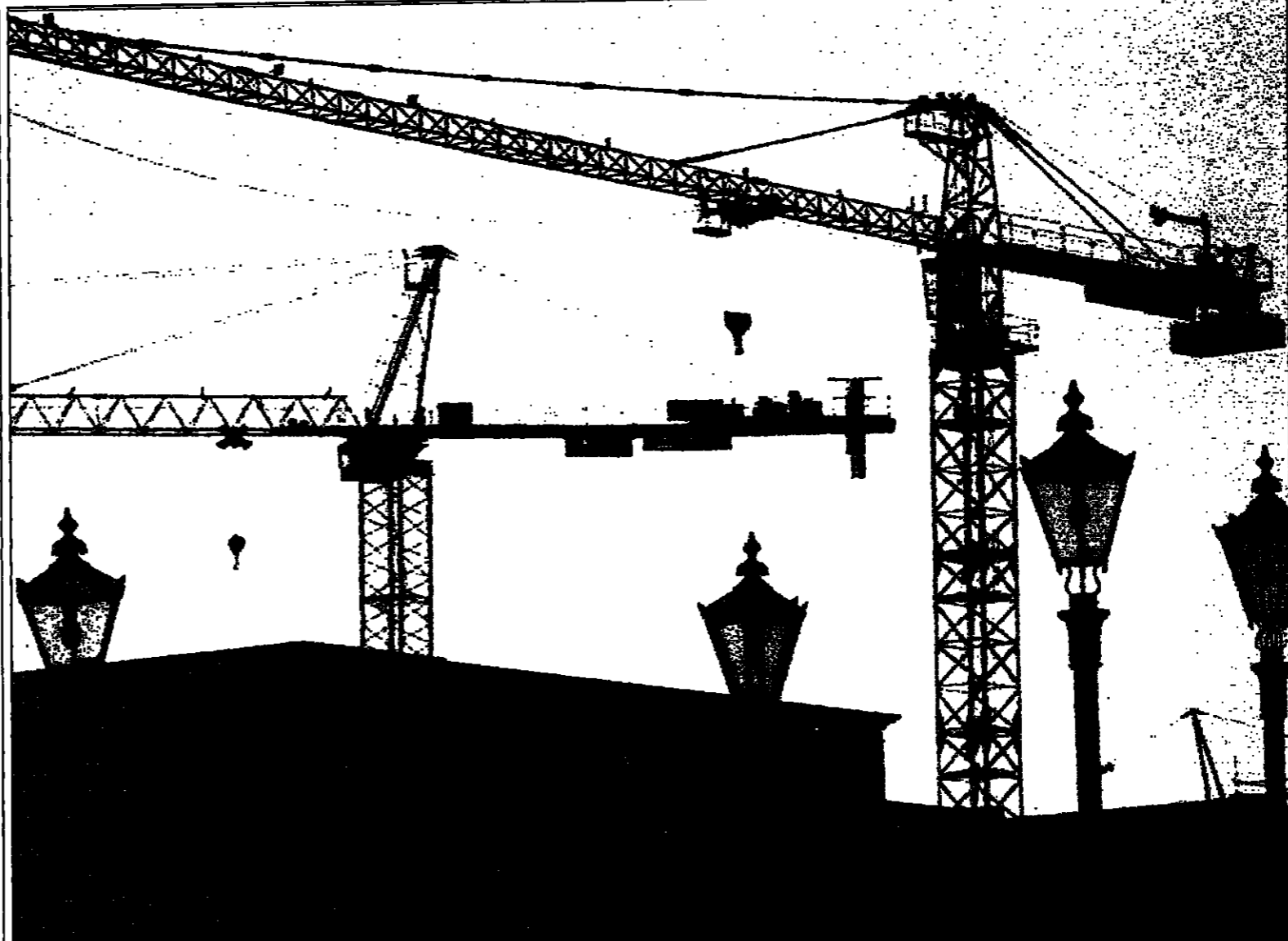
Reed revives takeover saga with Blenheim bid

Lisa Buckingham

THE on-off takeover saga of the exhibitions group Blenheim was revived yesterday when it emerged that the Anglo-Dutch media group Reed Elsevier has renewed its predatory interest.

puts a market value of £381 million on the company. Industry sources suggest United was reluctant to pay much more than £450 million and the media group was unhappy about the degree of financial disclosure during takeover negotiations.

Reed, which is thought to have had Blenheim in its sights for three or four years, organised about 300 conferences a year in more than 20 countries and has recently expanded its portfolio through an aggressive acquisition programme.



Back to the future... Cranes dominate the skyline of Birmingham city centre, where the process of urban renewal in England's second city is seeing the re-introduction of old-fashioned gas lamps

Rothschild claims upturn after £6.1m loss

Dominic Walsh

RESTRUCTURING costs pushed Rothschild Asset Management, the fund management arm of merchant bank NM Rothschild, to pre-tax losses of £6.1 million for the year to March 31 — the first set of figures since the suicide in July of its chairman, Amschel Rothschild.

ended from £471,000 the previous year, related to systems and information technology development costs, as well as severance payments. Trading losses accounted for the remainder.

All Rothschild's asset management business has been brought into a new holding company, Rothschild Asset Management, which is registered in Holland. The benefits of this new operation were already showing, with a return to the black since the year-

Textbook business turns knowledge into profits

OUTLOOK/Dorling Kindersley has so far avoided many pitfalls of high-growth UK firms, reports ROGER COWE

THERE is a classic model followed by many high-growth British companies which Dorling Kindersley would do well to avoid.

DK has certainly done the high-growth bit. The publishing group began in 1974 with the idea of brightening up hobby books (photography, wine, gardening etc) with high-class design and production.

allow the user to "fly" down the inside of a spine. The technology is amazing but that does not necessarily mean the profits will be, as DK admitted yesterday.

News in brief

Autumn glory on way for housing market

THE housing market is on course for its strongest autumn for eight years, chartered surveyors say today. Basing its buoyant outlook on the latest snapshot of activity at estate agents, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors says the recovery is "definitely here to stay".

Italian rail chief arrested

LORENZO Necci, chairman of Italy's state railway, was arrested at his home north of Rome yesterday after public prosecutors in La Spezia, near Genoa, pressed criminal charges.

Newton fights Imro fine

FUND manager Newton Investment Management is to challenge a six-figure fine from City watchdog Imro relating to irregularities in its pension fund business.

Granada to sell more hotels

GRANADA, which is hoping to announce a buyer for its £2 billion package of Forte Exclusive hotels within the next three months, has quietly put a further 22 hotels up for sale for £50 million.

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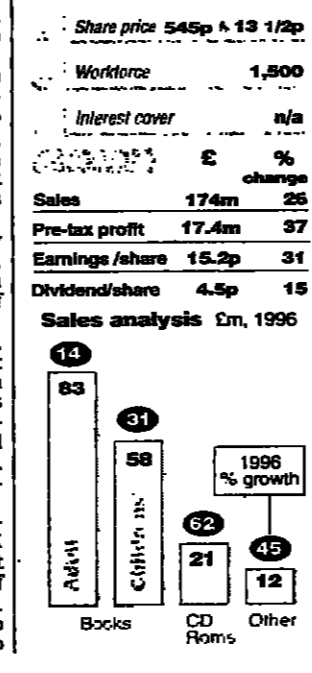
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Dorling Kindersley

Stock market value	£382m
Share price	545p + 13 1/2p
Workforce	1,800
Interest cover	n/a
Dividend	£ 0.00
Dividend %	0.00%
Sales	174m 26
Pre-tax profit	17.4m 37
Earnings/share	15.2p 31
Dividend/share	4.5p 15
Sales analysis	£m, 1996



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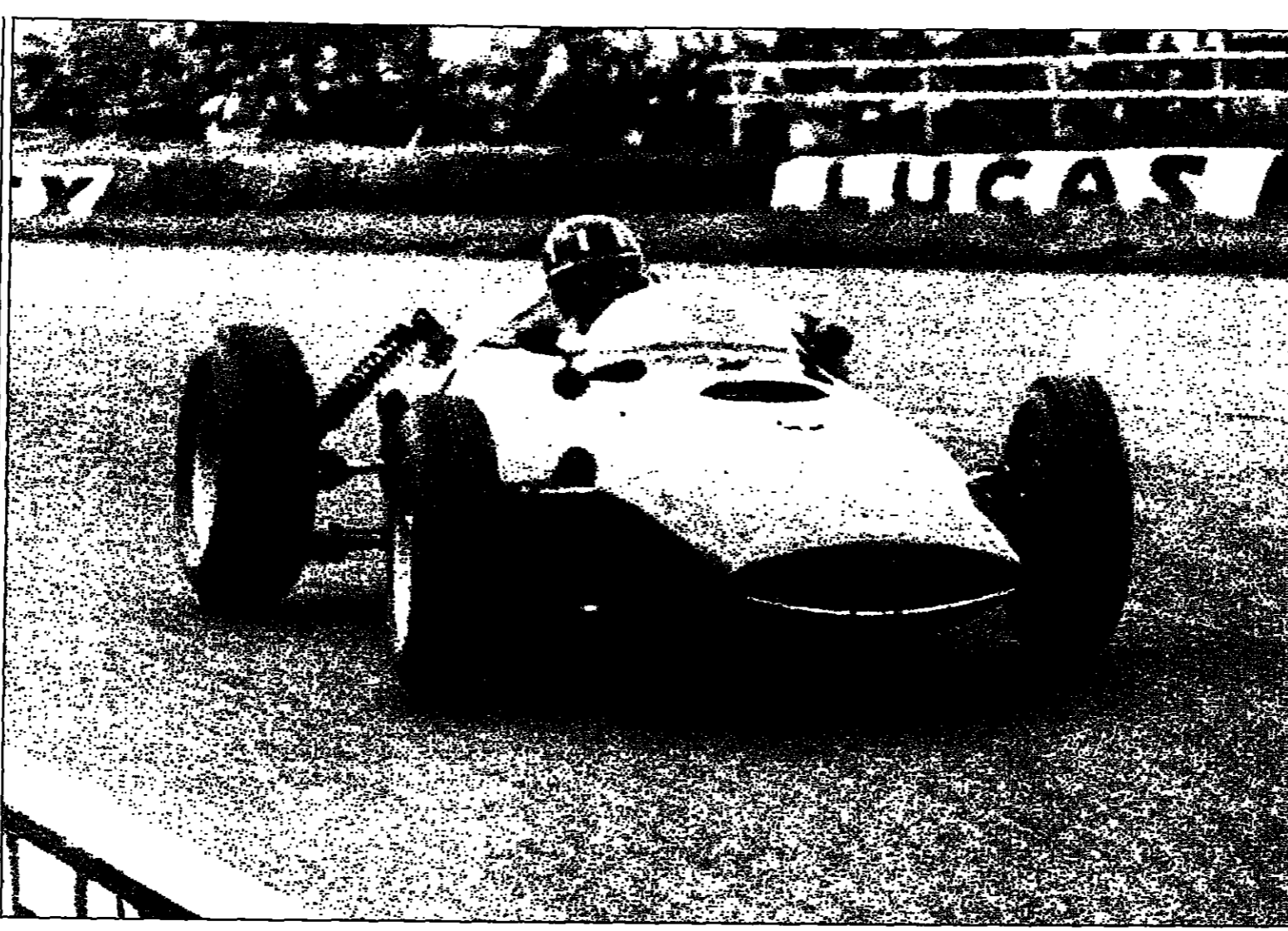
Motor Racing

Can the Briton beat Villeneuve to the world title on Sunday or will this season be the eighth to go to the wire? Alan Henry reports

Hill faces the hard road to glory

DAMON HILL goes into Sunday's Portuguese Grand Prix at Estoril knowing that, with his 13-point lead over his Williams team-mate Jacques Villeneuve, he can make certain of the world title simply by finishing the race ahead of the French-Canadian. Even if Hill does not finish, Villeneuve will need a top-three place to take the title battle to the final race at Suzuka in Japan on October 13. If that happens, Hill will join the list of championship close calls (below) for the second time in his career.

The Briton has led the points table since the opening race of the season in Melbourne. For the past six years every driver who has won the opening race has gone on to win the championship, and after winning in Australia Hill said: "It is a tradition I don't intend to break."



1962 Graham Hill

Damon's father Graham saved the BRM team in 1962. For at the start of the season their owner, Sir Alfred Owen, had vowed to withdraw from racing unless they won at least two grands prix. Hill obliged by winning the Dutch, German and Italian rounds, and went into the final race of the championship in South Africa having to

prevent his arch-rival Jim Clark from winning. Clark dominated from the start with Hill in hot pursuit, but an oil leak caused the Scot's retirement and Hill clinched BRM's sole world championship. For Hill it was the payoff for three years of persistence with the British team.

1958 Mike Hawthorn

HAWTHORN'S Ferrari had only to finish second behind Stirling Moss's Vanwall in the Moroccan Grand Prix at Casablanca to make him the first British world champion ahead of his compatriot. In the closing stages of the race his team-mate Phil Hill let him through into second place and he clinched the title by a single point.

Hawthorn retired from racing, but did not live long to relish his success. The following January he was killed when his Jaguar skidded off the Guildford bypass and hit a tree.

1964 John Surtees

THIS championship came down to a hair-raising three-way battle between Surtees, Graham Hill and Jim Clark going into the final race in Mexico City. Clark again dominated but the Lotus broke down on the final lap. The title fleetingly fell into Hill's hands, despite damage to the BRM's exhaust pipes caused when Surtees's Ferrari team-mate Lorenzo Bandini tried to outbrake Hill into a hairpin and spun the Briton off the circuit, but then Bandini dropped back behind Surtees on the final lap and the former motorcycle champion scrambled home by a point.

Final points: 1. John Surtees, 40; 2. Graham Hill, 39; 3. Jim Clark, 32.

1968 Graham Hill

AFTER Jim Clark's death in a minor-league Formula Two race on the Hockenheim circuit, Graham Hill was left to restore the shattered Lotus team's morale. He went into the final race in precisely the same mathematical situation as in 1962 and again it was a Scot, Jackie Stewart, who stood to beat him to the title. If the Matra driver could win the final race in Mexico City, still echoing the 1962 story, Stewart had until he was slowed by fuel-feed problems and gradually dropped back out of the points. Hill won the race and the championship.

Final points: 1. Graham Hill, 48; 2. Jackie Stewart, 36; 3. Dennis Hulme, 33.

1976 James Hunt

THE most famous finish of all. Niki Lauda looked set to clinch his second consecutive title with a succession of dominant victories in the first half of the season. James Hunt gradually got into his stride with the McLaren, then Lauda suffered horrific burns when his Ferrari crashed in the German Grand Prix. He was out for only three races but Hunt won all three to inch into contention going into the final race of the year in Japan. Lauda withdrew from that rain-soaked event and Hunt scrambled back to third place after a late puncture, taking the championship by a point.

Final points: 1. James Hunt, 68; 2. Niki Lauda, 66; 3. Jody Scheckter, 49.

1986 Alain Prost

NIGEL MANSELL should have won, Nelson Piquet almost did, but in the end Alain Prost retained his title as the two Williams-Ford drivers dropped the ball in the final race. With 18 laps to go, Mansell, running a strong third, had the world championship in his sights but he suffered a spectacular puncture at 200mph on the Adelaide circuit's Brabham straight. Piquet moved ahead but was called in for a tyre check; that allowed Prost through to win and become the first driver to retain the title since Jack Brabham in 1969 and 1970.

Final points: 1. Alain Prost, 72; 2. Nigel Mansell, 70; 3. Nelson Piquet, 66.

1994 Michael Schumacher

IN THE wake of Ayrton Senna's death Damon Hill gradually hauled back up on to Michael Schumacher's tail, though he was helped by the fact that the Brazilian driver was disqualified from two races and suspended from two more. It all came down to the final race in Adelaide, where Hill had to beat Schumacher to secure the title. The contest was finally resolved in the German's favour after the two men were involved in a controversial collision, allowing Nigel Mansell through to win the race eight years after his own initial title hopes were so spectacularly thwarted.

Final points: 1. Michael Schumacher, 92; 2. Damon Hill, 91; 3. Gerhard Berger, 41.

SPORTS NEWS 13

Racing

Jockey Club set to change the whip rule

Chris Hawkins

THE Jockey Club will look again at the regulations which resulted in Frankie Dettori and Pat Eddery receiving whip-bans after Saturday's epic St Leger finish.

Realising that the race generated all the wrong kind of publicity, Malcolm Wallace, director of regulations, has conceded that the rule may need a "touch-up".

The particular rule will be examined and a report submitted to the disciplinary committee's November meeting.

David Pipe, the Jockey Club's director of public affairs, said: "The rule was brought in for three purposes: to stop the abuse of horses; to satisfy the public that something was being done about possible abuse; to encourage jockeys to use the whip less."

"We feel that the first and third objectives have been achieved but because the whole matter has received so much publicity this has become an issue in itself. It looks as if some adjustment will have to be made."

This is excellent news provided the adjustment does not mean more severe penalties such as the disqualification of horses.

As a result of his game St Leger victory, Shantou has not surprisingly had the dreaded Timeform "squiggle" deleted from his rating.

The squiggle is supposed to represent, at least in the eyes of Timeform, a horse that is unreliable or ungenue.

Shantou picked-up the tag when too keen to pass Royal Court at Haydock in July.

"We didn't think he wanted to go past the winner that day," explained Timeform's

handicapper Chris Williams. "But he wasn't ridden by Frankie Dettori then for whom he's done nothing wrong and you certainly can't grab him any more."

Following his Leger victory he has been raised to a rating of 124 which is 1lb above Dushyantor but 5lb below Shaamit, who retains his high rating despite running poorly in Ireland.

He has been given the benefit of the doubt after that effort in an unsatisfactory, slowly run race although he still did not appear to quicken much when seeing belated daylight. Shaamit looks more likely to contest the Arc than the Champion Stakes and Hill's have cut him from 20-1 to 5-1 for Longchamp.

Incidentally, Timeform rate the Arc favourite Heliostia at 128p (the p denoting likely improvement) while their top three-year-old in Europe is the Irish Derby winner Zagreb at 130p.

Zagreb has not run since murdering the opposition, which included Dushyantor at The Curragh in July and Dermot Weld would like some give in the ground for the Arc.

Polaris Flight was beaten six lengths in second behind Zagreb in Ireland and finished eight of nine behind Heliostia on Sunday. Taking a literal line is fraught with dangers but for the record he was beaten 11 lengths by Heliostia.

Dushyantor's defeat on Saturday was not a surprise to those who doubted the ability of Sadler's Wells to get three-year-olds who genuinely stay more than a mile and a half.

A fire at Jim Old's stable on Sunday night killed three horses. Four fire engines fought a blaze in a barn housing 40 horses at Old's Upper Herdwick Farm near Barbary Castle in Wiltshire.

Godolphin team can double up with Bint Shadayid and Fatefully

SAEED bin Suuroo was pushed off the top of the trainers' table last week but, seemingly seized with the spirit of competition, runs Bint Shadayid, third in the 1,000 Guineas, at Yarmouth today in an effort to close with Henry Cecil, writes Chris Hawkins.

Bint Shadayid (3.10) has not fulfilled the promise of her Guineas run, but finished second in a Group Three race at Doncaster last month, only to be demoted to third, after causing interference.

She should find today's company a little easier, but Cecil runs two in the shape of Sarvonic and Yamuna, the latter having looked a

little unlucky when third to Wandering Star at Sandown last time.

The Godolphin stable is also represented at Sandown this afternoon with Fatefully (4.30) in the Surbiton Fillies Handicap.

She was off the course for seven weeks before falling by a head to catch Blessed Spirit at Doncaster, and a 3lb pull in the weights should be enough for her to gain her revenge.

At Yarmouth, Ron Hodges sends his grand servant, How's Yer Father (4.45), to contest the Caister Selling Stakes, and such a race should still be within the capabilities of this tough ten-year-old.

Yarmouth card with guide to the form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details. Includes races like 2.35 Hype Energy, 3.10 Birt Shadid, 3.45 Wollstonecraft, 4.15 Privilia Baire, 4.45 How's Yer Father, 5.20 Lucky Oakwood, 5.50 William Sulistat Long Memorial Maiden Stakes, 6.15 Hype Energy, 6.45 Wollstonecraft, 7.15 Hype Energy, 7.45 Wollstonecraft, 8.15 Hype Energy, 8.45 Wollstonecraft, 9.15 Hype Energy, 9.45 Wollstonecraft.

Sandown runners and riders

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details. Includes races like 2.15 Hype Energy, 2.50 Alambert, 3.25 Birkid, 4.00 Barmston Smoaks, 4.30 Katelyn (ump), 5.00 Lord High Admiral, 5.50 William Sulistat Long Memorial Maiden Stakes, 6.15 Hype Energy, 6.45 Wollstonecraft, 7.15 Hype Energy, 7.45 Wollstonecraft, 8.15 Hype Energy, 8.45 Wollstonecraft, 9.15 Hype Energy, 9.45 Wollstonecraft.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race number and results. Includes races like 2.15 Hype Energy, 2.50 Alambert, 3.25 Birkid, 4.00 Barmston Smoaks, 4.30 Katelyn (ump), 5.00 Lord High Admiral, 5.50 William Sulistat Long Memorial Maiden Stakes, 6.15 Hype Energy, 6.45 Wollstonecraft, 7.15 Hype Energy, 7.45 Wollstonecraft, 8.15 Hype Energy, 8.45 Wollstonecraft, 9.15 Hype Energy, 9.45 Wollstonecraft.

Fontwell

Table with 2 columns: Race number and results. Includes races like 2.15 Hype Energy, 2.50 Alambert, 3.25 Birkid, 4.00 Barmston Smoaks, 4.30 Katelyn (ump), 5.00 Lord High Admiral, 5.50 William Sulistat Long Memorial Maiden Stakes, 6.15 Hype Energy, 6.45 Wollstonecraft, 7.15 Hype Energy, 7.45 Wollstonecraft, 8.15 Hype Energy, 8.45 Wollstonecraft, 9.15 Hype Energy, 9.45 Wollstonecraft.

RACELINE 0930 1681 COMMENTARY RESULTS YARMOUTH 101 201 SANDOWN 102 202

Soccer

Arsenal get Wenger but still suffer

Martin Thorpe

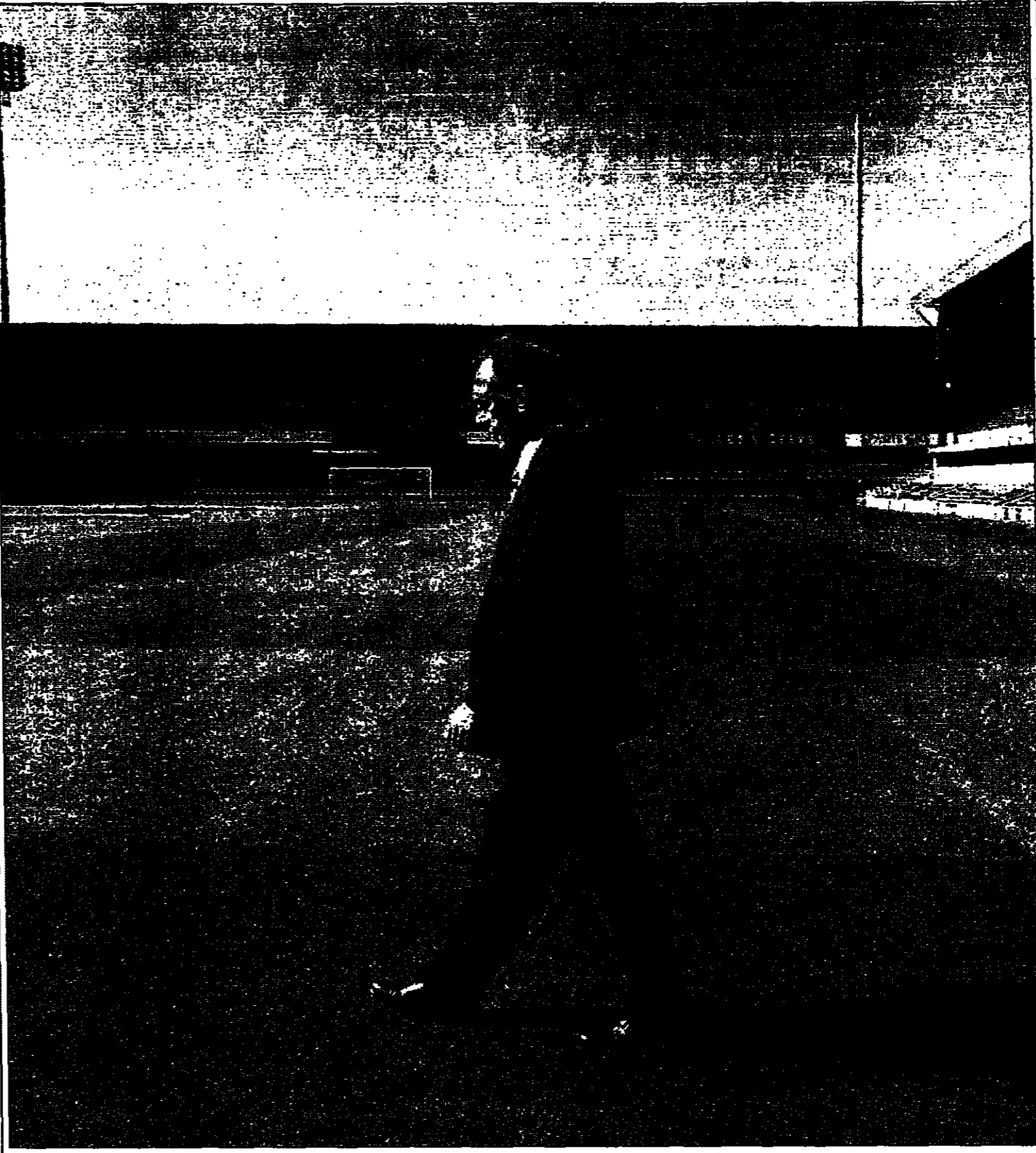
Football's worst-kept secret was finally confirmed yesterday when it was formally announced that Arsène Wenger is Arsenal's new manager. He will arrive on September 30.



Wenger... fortnight away

Wenger's club, Grampus Eight, said the Frenchman's two-year contract with them extended until January 1997 but they were now accepting his resignation after the appointment of the Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz.

Although Houston has signed three-year contract with QPR, believed to be worth £100,000 a year, his appointment is something of a gamble by the club.



Out of the shadows... Stewart Houston takes centre stage at Loftus Road after becoming QPR's manager yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH GARRY WEASER

Bassett bound for City post

Ian Ross

MANCHESTER CITY'S embarrasing search for a manager is expected to end today with the appointment of Crystal Palace's Dave Bassett.

Rotherham United have appointed Danny McGrath as their new manager in succession to Archie Gemmill and John McGovern.

Edwards flies out to revive Nadal deal

MANCHESTER UNITED'S chairman Martin Edwards undertook some shuttle diplomacy yesterday when he travelled to Spain in the hope of persuading Barcelona to part with their defender Miguel Nadal.

Edwards insisted that Nadal was definitely not for sale. United's manager Alex Ferguson said: "I am aware of the problems but I do remain confident a deal will go through."

Everton will attempt to arrest a worrying fall from grace by investing £10 million in new players.

Royle's need for a forward to partner Duncan Ferguson is clear. That may well prompt a move for Dean Holdsworth, the transfer-seeking striker valued at around £4.5 million by Wimbledon.

Collymore said: "I have just got to knuckle down and get my form right. I shall not be hanging on the manager's door. I have been down to read before and I don't intend to make the same mistake."

American Football

Green Machine rolls on

Mark Tran in New York

Can anyone stop the Green Bay Packers? That is now the big question in the NFL as the Packers demolished another team on Sunday, the San Diego Chargers, to complete their first 3-0 start since 1982.

Favre, the NFL's Most Valuable Player last year, did throw two interceptions to break his streak of 163 consecutive regular-season passes.

after Bennett's costly fumble in the fourth quarter. The Green Bay safety LeRoy Butler snared a pass intended for Terrell Fletcher and shot off down the left sideline for a 90-yard TD to make it 35-10.

Results

Soccer

PORTER LEAGUE Premier Division: Blackpool 0, Birmingham 4; Stoke 1, Oxford 1.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 9, Chicago 6; Oakland 10, Cleveland 9; Toronto 6, New York Yankees 2.

Fixtures

(7.30 unless stated) Soccer: COCA-COLA CUPS: Second round, first leg.

Sport in brief

Tennis: Tim Henman will lead Britain at their Davis Cup Euro-African zone group two promotion match against Egypt.

Cycling

Gréme Obere has pulled out of a world championship event for the second time.

Swimming

Nick Gillingham has been told by the British Olympic Association that it has dropped plans to appeal on his behalf against the International Olympic Committee decision not to award him the 200m breaststroke bronze medal.

Team talk: The independent news and reports service. 0891 33 77+. Arsenal 06 Ipswich Town 19 Sheffield United 15.

Rugby League

McNamara out

The seventh man to withdraw from the ill-starred Great Britain tour, the Bradford Bulls forward Steve McNamara, needed a three-hour operation after the freak weekend accident which cost him not only a seat on Friday's jet to the Antipodes but also his hand.

American Football

ATP-COLUMBIA OPEN (Hoopist): Paul T. Hunter (AUS) 6-1 N. Lapan (CAN) 6-7, 6-2, 7-5.

Hockey

WELSH WOMEN'S CUP: Preliminary round: Aberystwyth 4, Cwmbran 3; Snowdon 4, Rhyl 3.

Ice Hockey

RENNON AND HEDDER CUP DRAWS: Quarter-finals: Ayr v Manchester; Strathclyde v Newcastle; Cardiff v Nottingham; Banbridge v Braemar.

Motor Sport

RALLY OF AUSTRALIA: Seventy stages 1. T. McKeen (FIN) Mitsubishi Lancer 4hr 21m 55.2s.

Rugby Union

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE (7.45): First Division: Carmarthen v Pontypridd; Second Division: Aberystwyth v Ceredigion; Third Division: Aberystwyth v Ceredigion.

Pools Forecast

Table with columns for FA Caring Premiership, National League, and Scottish League. Lists teams and predicted winners.

Handwritten signature: J. J. J. J.

Cricket

County Championship: Glamorgan v Surrey

Surrey assault runs out of steam

David Foot sees the unsentimental Welsh apply the brakes to Stewart's title aspirations

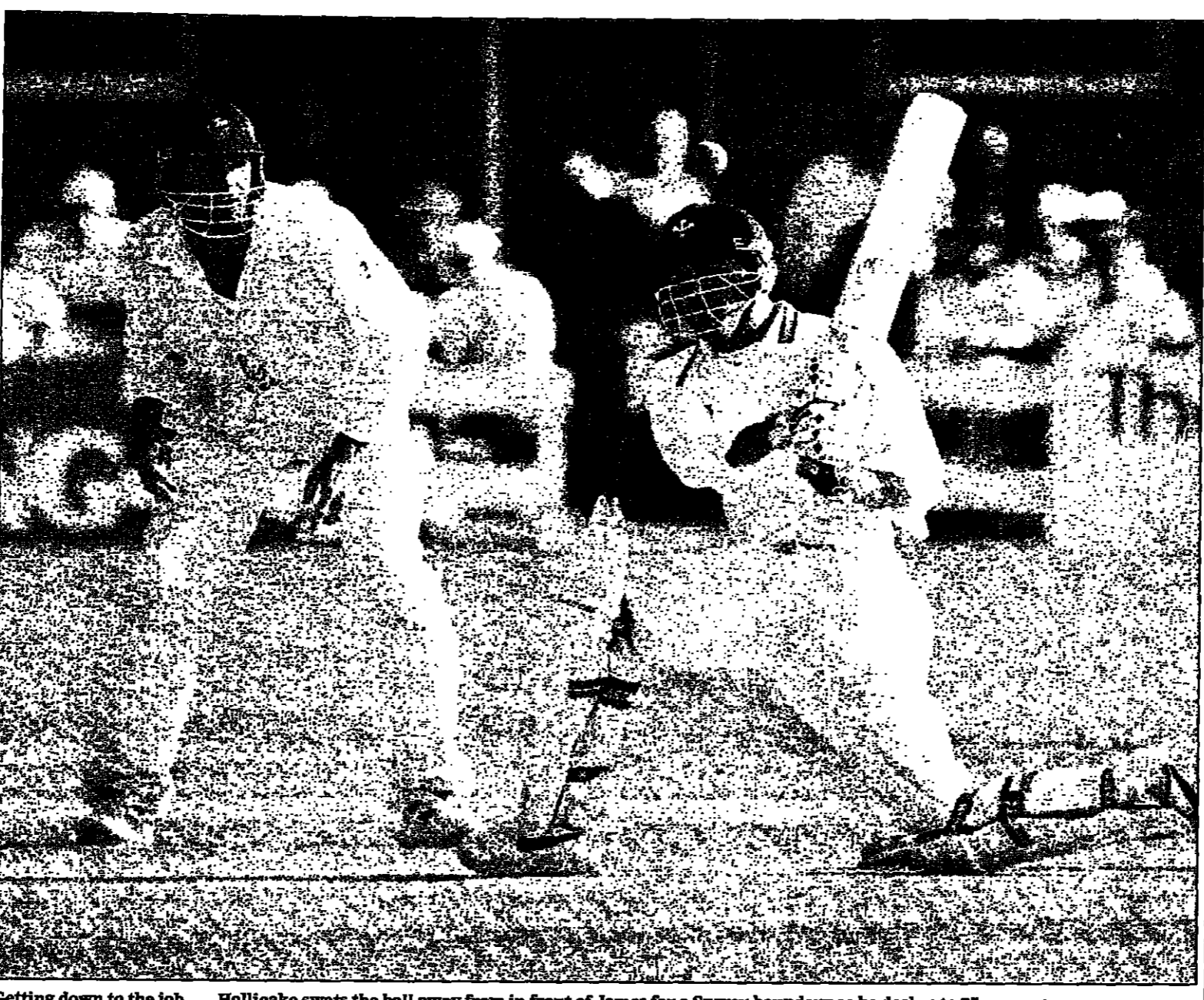
SURREY used 10 bowlers, including their captain and wicketkeeper Steve Stewart, as if to confirm the words after their win on Sunday that their undeniable presence had been based on the team ethos. Yet such collective endeavour proved in vain yesterday in a match that was uncompromising as well as enthralling.

They finished with three wickets left and Glamorgan crowding the bat as they had done for the last 90 minutes. The challenge of scoring 336 in a minimum of 47 overs had always looked too daunting but at this stage of the season generosity understandably drifted away down the adjacent River Taff.

Surrey had to settle for the compromise of points for the draw rather than those for a win that they had at times scanted in this match on a bland wicket. Now they are 14 points behind Leicestershire, who need 11 points - full bonus points and a draw against Middlesex from their final match will suffice - to make sure of the title.

Glamorgan, doubtless to the approval of Surrey's principal opponents at the top, never remotely made it easy for the visitors. They were imbued with no romantic notions of an early declaration and batted on to 443 for nine. At times Surrey boss seemed pleadingly in the direction of the Glamorgan balcony but without sentimental response.

James, an efficient, correct batsman, scored 16 boundaries as he moved to his seventh hundred of the season, his best championship summer for the county. Coty was bowled round his legs for 82 by Shahid, who had sent down only 12 overs of his leg-breaks previously this season. Now he took three wickets in a row and emitted countless cries of anguish; however meritorious his persistence, it only emphasised



Getting down to the job... Holloake swats the ball away from in front of James for a Surrey boundary as he dashes to 85

the need for more slow-bowling strength. For instance, Butcher was overtly surprised at one point to find himself on a hat-trick.

Maybe as a psychological ploy rather than impatience at Glamorgan's refusal to curtail the innings, Stewart swapped places with Shahid. "And why not put your father

on?" came a mordant voice from the crowd. Surrey were without Benjamin, who was unwell, but the bowlers did not have much chance.

Glamorgan kept going: first Croft, increasingly a good-looking batsman, and then Shaw, with a well composed career-best. It was hard to see after that how Surrey would

react. They did so by revising their batting order and 64 runs from the first six overs, even though Julian, out second ball, and Butcher were dismissed.

Lewis and Holloake savaged away with daring shots. Lewis should have been stumped; and was soon afterwards; Holloake was

dropped at long leg but went leg-before for 85 off 70 balls. The block was enforced after tea. Glamorgan, however, continued to peg away with native fervour. Croft, varying his deliveries with craft and accuracy, looked a spinner of genuine Test status, taking three wickets, and the teenager Crook two.

Glamorgan proved to have the better slow bowlers. Up in the scorers' box, Byron the Bard, who doubles on the loudspeaker, garbled the day's announcements with civillised scold. He wished Holloake well on the A tour and at the end wished everyone a happy Christmas. You couldn't ask for more.

Essex v Sussex

Essex hopes fall to Salisbury spin

Paul Weaver at Chelmsford

THERE was scarcely a straw left unclutched here last night as Essex members contemplated the grim consequences of their defeat by Sussex by 137 runs. The man with the three sexes sun-hat, with a Paul Prichard benefit brochure under his arm, wrestled with his calculator. "Look, if we take a maximum 24 points from our last game against Glamorgan, and it rains everywhere else, we are champions." This is true.

Another supporter warmed to this piece of intelligence. "Yes, and don't forget we tend to win the championship when we are within a year of a General Election. Also true: Essex were champions in 1979, 1983, 1986 (a year out) and 1992, although Maggie forgot to go to the country in 1984 and 1991 when they also took the title.

This is all rather fanciful stuff. The more pragmatic view of Essex man could be seen driving out of the ground in mid-afternoon. Realistically, their hopes of a seventh championship ended with this defeat. Set 421 to win from a minimum of 71 overs, they were bowled out for 283, with the leg-spinner Ian Salisbury returning a career-best eight for 75.

Kent v Hampshire

Kent rout keeps them in the hunt

Martin McCague claiming his first hat-trick for Kent in remarkable figures of five wickets for three runs in 17 deliveries.

Hampshire's abject performance was brought to an end when Matthew Fleming finished them off with three for nought in six balls. Dean Headley had scored a Kent hat-trick on Saturday, his third of the season. Steve Marsh, the Kent

Surrey v Glamorgan

Surrey's last game, starting on Thursday, with his 90th first-class century in his country's five-wicket win over Gloucestershire at New Road.

Rick, hitting late form since being dropped by England, struck 19 fours and a six in his 106 as Worcestershire chased 308 in 81 overs. With Philip Weston (14 fours in an innings of 89) he shared a stand of 201 for the second wicket.

Somerset line up Reeve

The former Warwickshire captain Dermot Reeve is on the shortlist to become Somerset's director of coaching. Reeve, who retired as a player in July because of a hip problem, has confirmed an approach from Somerset's chief executive Peter Anderson. "Peter has contacted me to

see whether I would be interested and I told him I would be," Reeve said. He has considered other options, including the media.

The Somerset position has become available after the departure of Bob Cottam, who was also with Warwickshire before moving to Taunton.

County Table

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Team, Points, Runners. Lists various county cricket teams and their current standing in the championship.

First-Class Averages

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Player, Runs, Wickets. Lists top-performing players in first-class cricket across various categories.

Ice Hockey

Relief for Devils' rivals as Anderson is kept on ice

The Bristol lock Phil Adams may become the first domestic player in the new professional era to be fined or banned for breach of contract.

Adams faces disciplinary action as referee admits his mistake

The referee Jerry Wallis, on the advice of his senior touch judge Gerald Ashton-Jones, sent off the Bristol No. 8 Eben Rollitt for that offence. But since viewing a video provided by BSkyB, both officials have admitted that the wrong player was shown the red card and have apologised for their mistake.

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Rugby Union

Botica gets rerouted to Llanelli

John Huxley

FRANCO BOTICA, the former All Black, has played his last game of rugby league as well as his last match for the Courage League One side Orrell.

He had been released by Super League's Castleford Tigers so that he could play rugby union for Orrell over the next two winters. But now the rugby league club has decided to sell him to Llanelli.

Last night Orrell were arguing that Botica was their player and that Llanelli would need to talk to them before his future could be resolved. Peter Williams, Orrell's director of rugby, said: "I feel sorry for Franco because all this speculation is so disturbing. We have spoken to Castleford and are happy that they have reached a settlement with Llanelli, but Llanelli will still have to come and see us."

The Welsh side plan to include the 33-year-old New Zealander in their side to face Swansea at Stradey Park on Saturday. Initially it was thought that he would link up with them for the European League in November, but Llanelli's coach Gareth Jenkins said: "We are hoping that Franco will be able to play for us on Saturday. We have been in touch with Castleford and we expect that the formalities will be completed in time."

"We have a very important derby game against Swansea and that would be the ideal stage on which to introduce such a player. Franco will be coming to us on a full-time basis because he feels that he wants to play just the one game."

Williams retorted: "One thing is for certain, there's no way Franco will be playing against Swansea this weekend without our agreement." Orrell believed that they had a two-year contract to play Botica but Castleford said that the agreement was with the player and that he was still theirs to recall.

Castleford are to receive £75,000 in compensation for Botica, who still had a year to serve on the contract he signed when he joined them from Wigan. The West Yorkshire club, whose finances have been cracking under the pressure of contractual strain, are happy to sell.

Botica moved into rugby league from New Zealand rugby union in June 1990 and became a consistent demolisher of records during his time with Wigan. Last Saturday he had to retire with an injured hip during Orrell's 29-12 home defeat at the hands of Leicester Tigers.

Llanelli, who have a reported £3 million to spend, has been pursuing another rugby league player, Iestyn Harris of Warrington. Reports from Warrington suggest that the Welsh club were offering up to £1 million for the player, who is listed at £1.35 million.

Evans set for Cardiff return

A formal offer to Evans. They approached him two months ago but balked at the 57-year-old Australian's demand for a sum well into six figures; now, however, Cardiff's poor start to the season has increased his value to the club.

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SportsGuardian

Relief at Grace Road as rivals falter

THE bookmakers made Leicestershire 7-1 on favourites to clinch the County Championship next week — for only the second time in their 117-year history — after most of their title rivals stumbled yesterday, writes Chris Curtin.

With a lead of 14 points over Surrey and 15 over Kent a solid draw in their final match at Grace Road starting on Thursday, against Middlesex, should enable the Yorkshire-born James Whitaker to emulate no less a figure than Ray Illingworth. The former England captain and chairman led Leicestershire to their sole title in 1975.

Kent pulled off a remarkable maximum 24-points victory over Hampshire, who were reduced from 143 for one to 150 all out thanks to Martin McCague. The fast bowler took five wickets for three in 17 deliveries, including his first hat-trick for the county.

Kent's captain Steve Marsh said: "We were probably outsiders to win the game at lunch and we needed someone to produce a superhuman effort and it was Martin. Kent travel to Bristol to face Gloucestershire in the final county round.

Surrey and Essex both lost ground and like Kent will be praying for prolonged rain in the Midlands this week. Surrey were held to a draw at Cardiff when, set the unlikely target of 336 to win off what turned out to be 51 overs. Glamorgan had them 205 for seven. Surrey finish at home to Worcestershire.

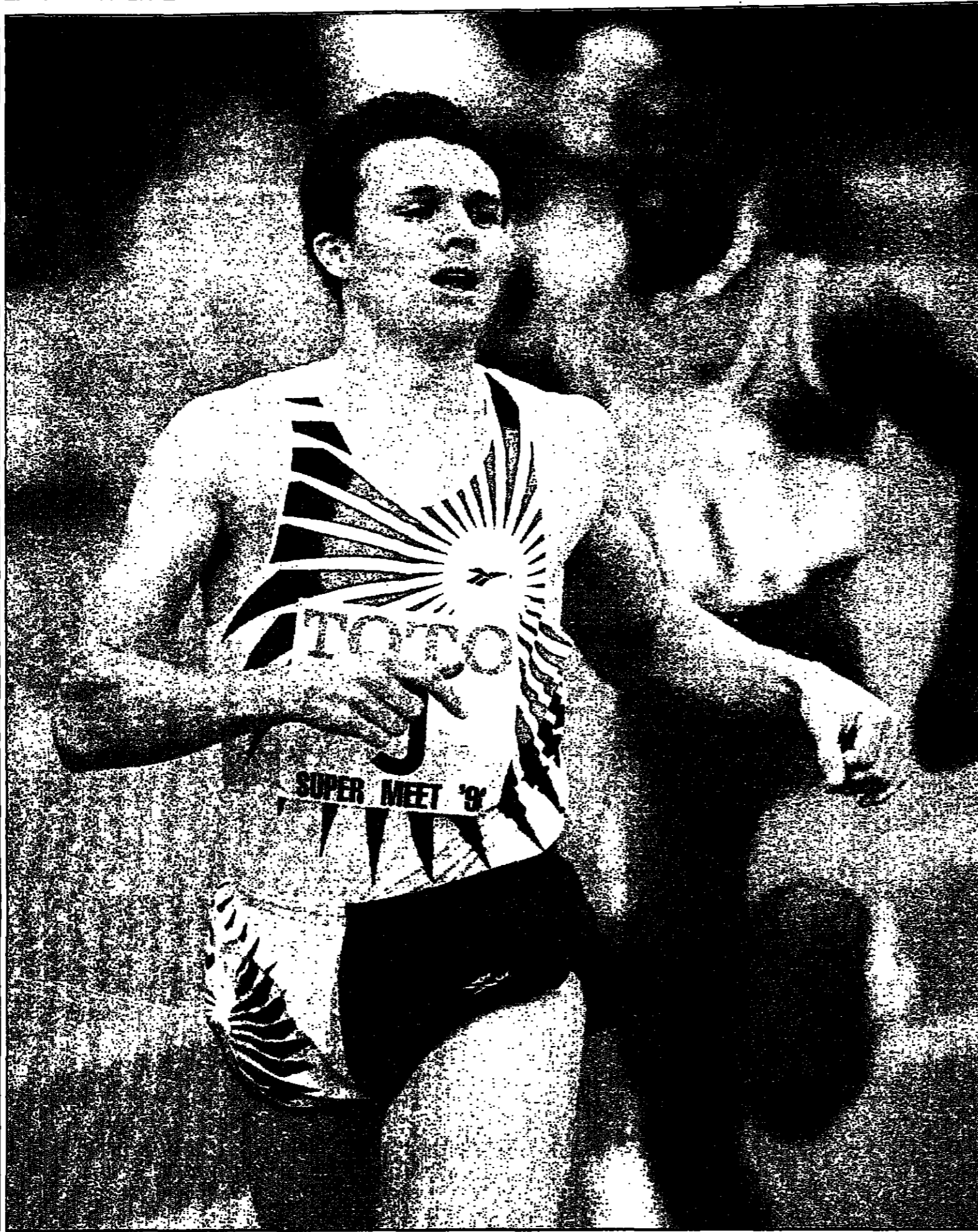
Essex lost to Sussex and, with 249 points, have little more than a mathematical chance even if they now do a number on Glamorgan at Chelmsford.

There was cruel irony there yesterday when the local hero and Test selector Graham Gooch saw his beloved Essex laid low by Ian Salisbury, the leg-spinner omitted from the England touring parties after his poor Test showing.

Salisbury took career-best figures of eight for 75 as Sussex claimed a 137-run victory over Essex, set the daunting victory target of 421.

Full reports, page 15

BLACK BACK TO BASICS IN JAPAN



Roger Black breaks the tape in the 400 metres at the Tottori International event in Tokyo yesterday with a time of 45.33sec ahead of Lamont Smith of the United States. Another British Olympic silver medalist, Jonathan Edwards, suffered his first defeat since the Games when he finished behind the American Kenny Harrison in the triple jump; Edwards could manage only 17.38 metres as Harrison recorded 17.51m to repeat his victory in Atlanta. Britain's Steve Backley threw 84.4m to finish third in the javelin, which was won by Jan Zelezny of the Czech Republic. PHOTOGRAPH: KOJI SASAHARA

New age has no time for dynasties



Richard Williams

ANOTHER day, another turn on the managerial merry-go-round. Speaking from Japan yesterday Arsène Wenger finally named the date on which he will assume the manager's chair at Arsenal. In return, Stewart Houston left Highbury to become the 19th manager of Queens Park Rangers since the war and Danny Bergara joined Rotherham.

Up in Scotland, Steve Archibald was sacked after two years at East Fife. Nothing too unusual there: just cause and effect, action and reaction. Then things got complicated. Iain Munro, until recently the manager of Hamilton Academicals, took over at Raith Rovers less than a week after accepting the managership at St Mirren, which he relinquished in the aftermath of what is officially described as a "rethink".

He will be Raith's fourth manager this year; their third, indeed, in a fortnight, since his immediate predecessor Tommy McLean high-tailed it to Dundee United after only one week in charge and a "rethink" of his own. It was described as a "shock departure".

Come off it. There are no "shock departures" in football management. As Howard Wilkinson has pointed out, there are only two types of manager: those who have been sacked already and those who will be sacked in the future. The imponderable factor is whether the time between appointment and departure can be filled with something to boast about before the inevitable happens.

"You don't get too surprised any more," Terry Venables responded last week when I asked him for his reaction, as a fellow professional, to the departures of Wilkinson from Leeds United and Ray Wilkins from Queens Park Rangers. "It depends on what you feel about the individuals. I was very surprised and upset for Ray because I think he'd handled it all exceptionally well, going down and sticking in there and keeping playing. He did seem to have this resolute attitude to keeping playing. I don't quite understand that. Wilkinson? He had a

very good time at Leeds but he had a lot of disappointing results. All you know is the facts, and the facts are that they'd gone. Whether they'll be improved by the next guy remains to be seen."

Venables readily lent his support to the view that we are heading for an era in which the men formerly known as managers will be called coaches, with very specific responsibilities for the playing side of the club, leaving the business side of things to a general manager.

This is, after all, the title he was given when he took charge of England, and although the decision may have reflected the Football Association's view of his personal standing rather than his general policy, the title has been retained by Glenn Hoddie, his successor, and has received approval as part of English football's efforts to absorb lessons from the rest of Europe.

One questionable side-effect is a restriction on the coach's opportunity to make himself integral to the club. For the old type of manager, sustained success would lead to the founding of a dynasty. On the face of it the new system would not encourage a Matt Busby, a Brian Clough or a Bill Stanbury.

At AC Milan, for instance, Fabio Capello had just won his fourth league title in five years when he left for Real Madrid at the end of last season after a series of disagreements with the general manager Adriano Galliani. Now that a new coach, Oscar Tabarez, has made a terrible start to the season, it will be interesting to see whether Tabarez or Galliani, who has Silvio Berlusconi's ear, is still there this time next year.

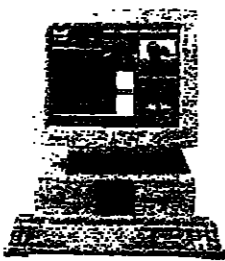
THERE are exceptions to the new short-term mind-set. At Auxerre, the current French champions, Guy Roux has held the reins for an astonishing 30 years. "I can't see that happening in Italy or England," Venables observed. "In Holland or France, maybe. But the demands of success here are too high."

Yet nowhere are these demands higher than at Old Trafford, where Alex Ferguson was given six years to establish himself before the off-the-cuff purchase of Eric Cantona added the final piece to his jigsaw, inaugurating the present era of success and awesome prosperity.

Ferguson had spent those years painstakingly rebuilding the club's foundations in the old-fashioned way. Would a more "coach" be granted such leeway?

MORSE

Don't Believe the Hype.



Some computer companies talk about the Internet as though they invented it. The fact is, most have cobbled together a loose strategy in the last year or so.

But Sun coined the phrase 'the network is the computer' in the 80's. They were pioneers of open network computing. They wrote the Java language.

Oracle, too, have been pioneers. They have web-enabled their applications and are developing the Network Computer.

Don't believe the hype, call Morse. Find out how Sun and Oracle can help you.



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Worried FA stepping up breath tests on players

John Duncan

THE Football Association has responded to fears about alcohol abuse in the game by revealing that it has been breath-testing players for the past three years. Though the results have never been published, the FA says that no one has yet failed a test for alcohol.

The news comes in the wake of Tony Adams's weekend confession to alcoholism, with the FA keen to demonstrate its commitment to keeping the game squeaky clean. Sources close to Adams say he has never been tested.

Sports Council drug testers, hired by the FA, have taken breathalysers to all dope tests at stadiums and training grounds since 1993, with any cases of more than 35mg — the limit for driving — to be reported to Lancaster Gate.

This year the FA's testing programme is its largest ever with 500 random tests, 80 per cent taken after morning training sessions. The FA's doping-control budget is £150,000.

"We will be testing players at every professional league club this season, either after matches or at the end of training sessions," said the FA spokesman Steve Double.

"The object of the testing isn't to wave a big stick; there is no question of a suspension if players are found to have alcohol in their system. We just want to find out who has a problem, and if they fail a test at training or a match, the chance is they have a problem."

If a player's sample shows unacceptable levels of alcohol the club doctor will be immediately informed of the result. It will be for the club to take action. Alcohol is not a prohibited substance, but it is a "restricted substance", which means its presence in samples can be noted and may be made illegal in some sports.

"The only circumstance we would take action," said Double, "would be if something happened on the field, like a punch-up, and the player involved was later found to have alcohol in his random test."

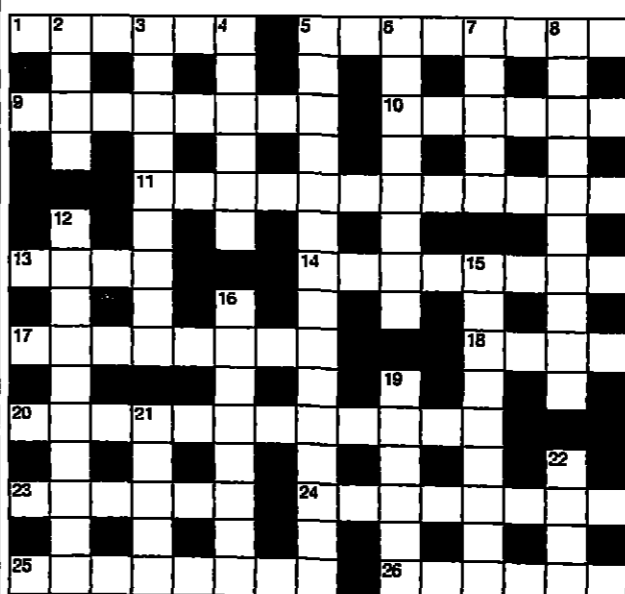
The FA reorganised and intensified its drug testing programme because of increasing fears over the use of special drugs such as cannabis, cocaine and amphetamines, all of which have been found in random tests in the past 18 months.

Last year the FA conducted 270 tests with eight positives, four for stimulants, four for marijuana. The FA has extended the testing programme to include players as young as nine at the centres of excellence.

They never toured, never sang in public; they were too cussed, too drugged, too cool, too something.
Sebastian Faulks on Steely Dan

Guardian Crossword No 20,760

Set by Logodaedalus

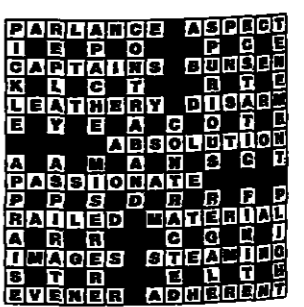


Across

- 1 Sausage sandwich for sweltering setter perhaps (3,3)
- 5 Hairdresser not entirely prompt for outdoor party (8)
- 9 Boxer was turned round unconscious? Never-never! (8)
- 10 Savage gets dry by a lake (5)
- 11 Pay tribute to Great Colat-Nut all chopped up (12)
- 13 Give thanks to football team in vehicle (4)
- 14 Insignificant queen in identical stockings (3-5)
- 17 One who accepts an offer, too backward to become established (4,4)
- 18 Flat that The Avengers would like to get (4)
- 20 Added something to pliable people close to Heath (12)

Down

- 2 Old boy, once heartless, provides music (4)
- 3 Poirot perhaps unmasked vet with deceit (8)
- 4 Yawning but with stick put in muzzle (8)
- 5 Farmer's warning: watch out for the market speculator (6,2,3,4)
- 6 Half-detach part of stem lifted up and shot full of holes (8)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,760

- 7 Look at the qualifiers, having the same rights (5)
- 8 Tea-dust scattered with net that's not supported (10)
- 12 Street arab puts a cloth over a cake (10)
- 15 It's excessively silly to retain registered debt (5)
- 16 Force doctor to get chaps lying on stomach (8)
- 19 Pin used to undo pleats (6)
- 21 Holiday souvenir perhaps (often inside the post office) (5)
- 22 Girl camouflages earth in winter month (4)

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مكازم التحصيل